



Chapter-1

Introduction

Women, who number 498.7 million according to 2001 census, represent 48.2 per cent of the country's population of 1027.01 million. Children below the age of 6 years number about 157.86 million, accounting for 15.42% of the country's population. Their holistic development in terms of materials, resources, programmes and policies is the broad mandate of the working of the Department of Women and Child Development under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.



Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Minister for Human Resource Development addressing the winners of National Awards for Child Welfare and Rajiv Gandhi Manav Seva Award for Service to Children and others on Universal Children's Day 2003.

1.1.2 The Department continued to remain under the overall charge of Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, the Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development. He was assisted by Smt. Jaskaur Meena, Minister of State.

1.1.3 Dr. R.V. Vaidyanatha Ayyar remained the Secretary of the Deptt. upto 31.7.2003. Smt. Kasturi Gupta Menon took charge of the Department thereafter on 4.8.2003.

1.1.4 The Department is divided into three Bureaux, each Bureau headed by a Joint Secretary namely; (i) Child Development (ii) Child Welfare and (iii) Women's Development and Women's Welfare. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission one post of Joint Secretary was

abolished w.e.f. 30.10.2002. The work relating to Plan, Coordination and Research was under the charge of the Economic Adviser while the work relating to Accounts and Audit was under the charge of the Joint Secretary and Financial Adviser who looked after the work of this Department in addition, to his responsibilities in other departments under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. An organogram of the Deptt. is at **Annexure-I.**

1.2.1 The Department has under its aegis one statutory body and three autonomous organizations, namely: (a) **Statutory Body** : National Commission for Women (b) **Autonomous Organisations** (1) National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), (2) Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) and (3) Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK).

The following functions fall under the jurisdiction of the Deptt. of Women and Child Development under the Allocation of Business Rules dated 6.1.2004:-

1. Welfare of the family,
2. Women and Child Welfare and co-ordination of activities of other Ministries and Organisations in connection with this subject;
3. References from the United Nations Organisations relating to traffic in women and children
4. Care of pre-school children
5. National Nutrition Policy, National Plan of Action for Nutrition and National Nutrition Mission
6. Charitable and religious endowments pertaining to subjects allocated to this Department,
7. Promotion and development of voluntary effort on subjects allocated to this Department,
8. Implementation of,
 - (a) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (as amended upto 1986);
 - (b) The Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act 1986 (60 of 1986);
 - (c) The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 (as amended upto 1986);
 - (d) The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 (3 of 1988) excluding the administration of criminal justice in regard to offences under this Act.
9. Implementation of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Food (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 (41 of 1992).
10. Coordination of activities of Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE),
11. Planning, Research, Evaluation, Monitoring, Project Formulations, Statistics and Training relating to the welfare and development of women and children, including development of gender sensitive data base.
12. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),
13. Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB)
14. National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)
15. Food and Nutrition Board
16. (i) Development and popularisation of subsidiary and protective foods
(ii) Nutrition extension
17. Women's Empowerment and Gender Equity
18. National Commission for Women,
19. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh.



1.2.2 While the NIPCCD and RMK are registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, the CSWB is a charitable company registered under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. The National Commission for Women has been set up under the National Commission for Women Act 1990.

1.3.1 The Food and Nutrition Board was transferred to the Department of Women and Child Development from the Ministry of Food w.e.f 1st April, 1993 in pursuance of the National Nutrition Policy.

1.4.1 The Department had a BE of Rs. 2653.91 crore including a Non Plan allocation of Rs. 53.91 crore during the year 2003-04. However, the Plan allocation was reduced to Rs. 2150.00 crore at RE stage due to resource constraints. In spite of this, every effort was made to ensure that resources were used in the most productive manner so as to maximize their usefulness to the beneficiaries (**Annexure-II**). Several procedural improvements were also introduced to increase the participation of states in the selection of projects/beneficiaries as discussed in the subsequent chapters dealing with the schemes and programmes of the Department.

1.5.1 The Standing Committee of the Parliament attached to the Ministry of Human Resource Development took oral evidence of the Secretary (WCD) on the Demands for Grants of this Department for 2003-04 on 28th March, 2003. An oral presentation on the question of Gender Analysis of the Budget was made before the Committee by the Secretary (WCD) on 30th April, 2003. The Committee undertook field visits to Mumbai (29-30 September, 2003) and Bangalore

(14-15 January, 2004) to take the oral evidence of the stake holders on micro credit facilities for women Self Help Groups (SHGs) with the involvement of the Department.

1.6.1 The Composition of the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women during 2003-04 is at **Annexure-III**. This Committee presented the following reports during 2003-04.

1. 12th Report on the action taken by the Government on the Committee's 5th Report on Functioning of Family Courts.
2. 13th Report on the action taken by the Government on the Committee's 4th Report on Health and Family Welfare Programmes for Women.
3. 14th Report on the action taken by the government on the Committee's 6th Report on Education Programmes for Women.
4. 15th Report on the action taken by the Government on the Committee's 7th Report on Training Programmes for Women.
5. 16th Report on the action taken by the Government on the Committee's 8th Report on Training and Empowerment of Women in Local Bodies.
6. 17th Report on the action taken by the Government on the Committee's 9th Report on Violence Against Women during Riots.
7. 18th Report on functioning of Self-Help Groups for Economic Empowerment of Women.

1.7.1 Action Taken Notes on the points relevant to this Department are in progress.

1.8.1 The following review meetings were held with Secretaries in charge of Women and Child Development in States during the year under report:-

1. Issues relating to North Eastern States including Sikkim were focused in the meeting held at Guwahati on the 28-29, May 2003. While the meeting with the Ministers in charge of Women and Child Development on the 29th May, 2003 was presided over by MOS (HRD), the Secretary level meeting on the 28th May, 2003 was presided over by the Secretary (WCD).
2. HRM took a meeting with Ministers in charge of Women and Child Development of Northern States in New Delhi on 23rd June, 2003
3. A review meeting involving all Secretaries in charge of Women and Child Development in States was taken by Secretary(WCD) on the 15-16 October, 2003.

1.8.2 These meetings focused on issues like timely operationalisation of all sanctioned ICDS projects, timely payment of arrears of honoraria to Anganwadi Workers, training of ICDS functionaries and adequate budgetary provision for supplementary nutrition in States, implementation of grants-in-aid schemes for women programmes etc.

1.8.3 A meeting to review the Master Plan of Operations under UNICEF with concerned Union Departments and State Governments was held in September, 2003 when details of

operational strategies and success stories were discussed.

Highlights

1.9.1 In order to provide insurance coverage to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, a new scheme named “**Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana**” is proposed to be launched w.e.f. 1.4.2004.

1.9.2 The decline in female sex ratio brought out by Census 2001 in certain parts of the country has been a matter of concern to this Department. In order to combat the evil effect of female foeticide, a nation wide campaign known as “**Manvi Sanrakshan Abhiyan**” was launched through the Central Social Welfare Board and its branches all over the country.

1.9.3 **A National Nutrition Mission** has been set up and notified on 31.3.03 with a view to address the problems arising from malnutrition in a holistic manner, particularly among women and children.

1.9.4 With a view to prevent the misuse of the then existing provisions under the Infant Milk Food Substitutes Feeding Bottles and Infant Food (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 1992 by multi national companies, **an amendment was enacted on 2/6/04** to promote exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months of the life of a child and supplementary feeding after that up to two years and beyond. Certain curbs have been introduced in the promotion of infant foods at par with infant milk substitutes in so far as advertisement and other promotion campaigns are concerned.



1.9.5 **National Guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding** were developed and circulated among the states for their implementation through the field infrastructure.

1.9.6 The Department participated in the **25th Session of the Codex Committee** on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) held at Bonn from 3-7 November, 2003.

1.9.7 **Additional anganwadi centers were sanctioned in Jammu and Kashmir** to increase employment avenues in the State under Prime Minister's Employment package for Jammu

1.9.8 A Bill to constitute the **National Commission for Children** was framed and laid on the table of Lok Sabha on 5.12.2003.

1.9.9 **The National Charter for Children** highlighting the roles and responsibilities of both the Govt. and the community towards children and duties of children towards their family, community and society was notified in the official Gazette of India on 9th February, 2004.

1.9.10 **The National Awards for Children** for the years 2001 and 2002 were distributed in a function organized at the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi on 14th November, 2003, along with the celebration of the Universal Children's Day.

Chapter-2

Programmes for Women

Swayamsidha

Swayamsidha is an integrated project for the development and empowerment of women. It is based on the formation of women into Self Help Groups (SHGs) with emphasis on converging services, developing access to micro credit and promoting micro enterprises. The long term objective of the scheme is to achieve an all-round empowerment of women, especially socially and economically by ensuring their direct access to, and control over, resources through a sustained process of mobilization and convergence of all ongoing sectoral programmes. The immediate objectives of the programme are as follows:

- ❑ Establishment of self-reliant women's Self Help Groups (SHGs);
- ❑ Creation of confidence and awareness among members of SHGs regarding women's status, health, nutrition, education, sanitation and hygiene, legal rights, economic upliftment and other social, economic and political issues;
- ❑ Strengthening and institutionalizing the savings habit among rural women and their control over economic resources;
- ❑ Improving access of women to micro credit;
- ❑ Involvement of women in local level planning; and
- ❑ Convergence of services of DWCD and other Departments.

2.1.2 The most important component of the programme is the formulation, implementation and monitoring of block-specific composite projects for 4-5 years incorporating the following four elements:

- ❑ Group formation/mobilization activities;
- ❑ Community oriented innovative interventions;
- ❑ Other schemes of DWCD, namely Swawlamban, STEP, AGP, etc. if there is a felt-need;
- ❑ Convergence of schemes of other departments, whether under GOI or State Government initiative.



2.1.3 The composite project will be implemented by the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) which may be any appropriate government or non-government agency to be nominated by the State Government.



jointly supported by the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). It started on 16th October, 1988 for a duration of five years with an outlay of Rs.186.21 crore. An additional amount of Rs.5 crore was provided under the project for setting up a revolving fund for giving interest bearing loans to beneficiary groups, primarily during the formative stages. The project aims at enhancing women's access to resources for better quality of life through use of drudgery and time reduction devices, health, literacy and imparting skills for confidence

2.1.4 The total estimated cost of the project is Rs.116.30 crore of which 92.30 crore will be spent at the Block level, Rs.16 crore at the State level and Rs. 8 crore at the national level.

2.1.5 Details of Blocks where Swayamsiddha projects have been sanctioned, SHGs formed and funds released thereunder during the last four years are given at **Annexure-IV**.

Swa-Shakti Project

2.2.1 The Rural Women's Development Project, known as the Swa-Shakti Project, is

enhancement and increasing the women's control over income through involvement in skill development and income generating activities.

2.2.2 The project is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the States of Bihar, Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal through Women Development Corporations/Societies. So far 17647 Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed under the project against the target of 16000 SHGs envisaged under the project, State-wise break-up is given below:

Programme Outreach						
State	No.of Districts	No. of Blocks	No. of Villages	No. of SHGs formed	Total Member-ship	No. of NGOs
Bihar	1	6	113	441	5121	5
Chhattisgarh	3	19	387	560	8091	14
Gujarat	8	63	1278	2706	44848	55
Haryana	3	23	643	1550	22009	14
Jharkhand	5	18	916	1678	22242	19
Karnataka	7	36	978	2149	38522	36
MP	9	40	1139	2462	31533	45
UP	18	116	1679	5530	63907	16
Uttaranchal	3	14	398	571	7689	14
Total	57	335	7531	17647	243962	218



SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Community Assets

2.2.3 In order to promote community participation, development of planning and execution skills of SHGs and construction of small works useful to women, Swa-Shakti initiated a scheme under which any mature SHG could ask for 10-15 cement bags for common construction within the village. All other materials as well as the labour support had to be arranged by the SHG or community. The scheme has become very popular and many small but innovative works have been taken up

in the States of UP, Jharkhand, MP and Gujarat. Activities undertaken include construction /repair of drainage systems, platforms, community halls, bathrooms, soak pits, wells, school buildings, kaccha road, water tanks, compost pits, water tubs for cattle etc. Through this small measure, SHG members are not only creating community assets to fulfil their needs, but are also learning some valuable lessons on planning and execution of small works, as well as community mobilisation. This action has also increased their confidence level and

established the credibility of the SHGs in the village.

2.2.4 A total of 1612 community assets have been created which include community halls, toilets, bathing *ghats*, school sheds, drains, irrigation, pipeline for drinking water, stop dams, roads, hand pumps, etc. The overall value of these assets created is about Rs. 73 lacs of which the project funds participation is Rs. 17 lacs only. The balance of Rs. 56 lac has been mobilised from other sources at a ratio of 1:3.

Income Generation Activity/Micro Enterprise Development



2.2.5 With improved access to credit and skill upgradation, a large number of women have already started micro-enterprises. The Project has started linking its members with good quality training providers like Krishi Vigyan Kendras, various research institutions of ICAR, agricultural universities and local consultants. Around forty percent of SHG members are engaged in income generating activities after group formation. The average income of women engaged in income generating activities has also gone



up considerably. Across the States, a total of 60796 on-farm activities and 34560 non-farm activities have been started under the project. The average income of women engaged in income generating activities has gone up from about Rs. 700 per month to about Rs. 1,200 per month. These women now contribute almost 8% of the household income - though the figure ranges from about 21% in UP to about 3.5% in Bihar. 57 Business Counselling Centres have been set up to provide guidance to SHG members for taking up entrepreneurial activities and also to provide information on Govt. programmes, bank procedures, awareness about health/ literacy, etc.

Networking

2.2.6 1160 clusters have already been formed against the target of 1243 clusters. 14,000 SHGs out of the total of 17,647 SHGs are now part of a Cluster. 37% of the clusters formed have opened bank accounts and 15% are already involved in providing forward and backward linkages for the SHGs in carrying out income generation activities. Inter-loaning has also commenced in 15% of the clusters. All states have articulated a clear strategy for cluster formation and their activities in the coming months.

Convergence

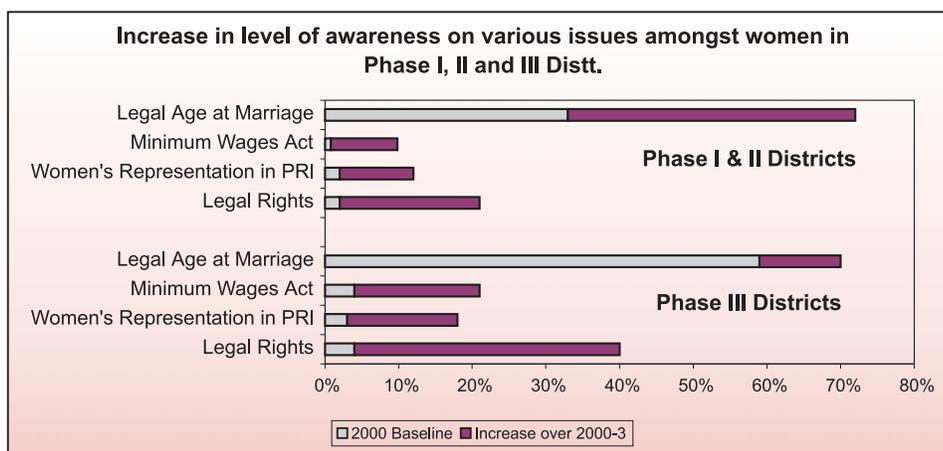
2.2.7 7703 (43.6%) groups have received benefits from various Government programmes like drinking water and sanitation, rural roads and Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). A total of 515 programmes/workshops have been organised involving line departments. A total of 120152 SHG women have participated in exposure visits. Sensitization of line Department officials/ bankers and exposure of SHGs has brought strategic change in their outlook.

Project achievements-based on 7th round of concurrent monitoring and evaluation

2.2.8 94% of SHGs have received basic training and 60% of the members have undergone advanced need-based training. As a result of systematic training efforts undertaken by the project, awareness among members about various issues has increased substantially.

2.2.9 SHGs women are able to voice their basic needs and access resources and services in a variety of ways. About 52% of SHG members are able to travel outside their village for various reasons including training, exposure visits and meeting Government officials.

Figure – 1



2.2.10 In family-level decision-making, percentage of members having a say in sending daughters to school recorded a major increase from under 0.5% in the year 2000 to almost 90% at present, while the corresponding numbers for members having a say in the selection of spouses for their children went up to over 73%.

2.2.11 37% of SHGs have developed linkages with other programmes/schemes compared to about 17% in 2000. Over 22% of the members are now represented in grass-root level institutions as compared to a baseline of 0.7%. More than 10% of the women are interacting directly with the line departments and almost 25% of the members are interacting with the Panchayats to access information and services. Over a quarter of group members are now attending Gram Sabha meetings, compared to 2.4% at the year 2000 baseline.

2.2.12 The percentage of pregnant SHG members accessing ante-natal care facilities has increased from 53% in 2000 to about 75% in 2003. Access to appropriate services has risen from 37% in 2000 to 76.5% in 2003. Similarly, access to safe drinking water has risen from about 25% in 2000 to almost 50% in 2003.

2.2.13 88% of the members are sending their daughters in the 6 to 14 year age group to school in 2003, as compared to under 65% in 2000. Forty percent of formerly illiterate group members have learned to sign their names after joining the SHG. Forty five percent of sampled members have benefited from drudgery reduction programs; and over 87% of the women stated that their husbands have started sharing the burden of household chores.

Physical Progress

2.2.14 The achievements under the project can be summarized as indicated in the table below:

<input type="checkbox"/> Clusters Formed (Number)	1160
<input type="checkbox"/> Group Savings (Rs. Lacs)	1854
<input type="checkbox"/> Groups Interloaning (Number)	17416
<input type="checkbox"/> Amount Interloaned (Rs. Lacs)	4384
<input type="checkbox"/> Groups Linked with Banks (Number)	7722
<input type="checkbox"/> Amount Loaned by Banks (Rs. Lacs)	1709
<input type="checkbox"/> Convergence with govt programmes (Groups)	7703
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Assets Created (Number)	1612

Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)

2.3.1 Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) was launched as a Central Sector Scheme in 1986-87. It aims





to earn better, but also for managerial, entrepreneurial and marketing skills which enable them to establish newer units with better linkages, both forward and backward. Support services like legal awareness, gender sensitization, nutrition, etc. are also part of the scheme. Under the scheme, 90 per cent of the project costs are borne by the Union Government with the balance 10 per cent borne by the implementing agencies.

at making a significant impact on women in traditional sectors by upgrading skills and providing employment on project basis by mobilizing them into viable groups, arranging for marketing linkages, support services and access to credit. The Scheme covers eight traditional sectors of employment i.e. Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairy, Fisheries, Handloom, Handicrafts, Khadi and Village Industries and Sericulture. The scheme is being implemented through Public Sector Organisations, State Corporations, DRDAs, Cooperatives, Federations and registered Voluntary Organisations which have been in existence for a minimum period of three years.

2.3.2 The scheme provides for training not only for skill upgradation which enables women

2.3.3 In order to enhance the involvement of States in the implementation of the programme, State Level Empowered Committees headed by the Secretary in charge of Women Welfare in States have been set up from the current financial year, i.e. 2003-04. These Committees examine the proposals from States and forward them to the Union Government with their recommendations. These proposals are further scrutinized by the concerned technical departments in the Government of India before they are placed for the consideration of the Project Sanctioning Committee, headed by the Secretary (WCD).

2.3.4 Details of fresh projects sanctioned and beneficiaries thereunder during the year 2003-04 are given in the table below:

Projects Sanctioned under STEP during 2003-2004

Sector	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rupees in lakh)	No. of Beneficiaries
Dairy	3	102.30	11200
Goatery	3	21.89	1500
Piggery	1	11.03	500
Rabbit	1	15.98	600
Poultry	2	16.82	1550
Woollen Spinning	1	34.07	1000
Total	11	202.09	16350

Details of funds released and number of beneficiaries thereunder for the last three years are given at **Annexure-V**

Swawlamban Scheme



2.4.1 Swawlamban Programme, previously known as NORAD/Women's Economic Programme, was launched in 1982-1983 with assistance from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). The objective of the programme is to provide training and skills to women to facilitate them to either obtain employment or become self-employed on a sustainable basis. The target groups under the scheme are the poor and needy women and women from weaker sections of the society, such as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, etc.

2.4.2 Financial assistance under the programme is provided to Women's Development Corporations, Public Sector Corporations, autonomous bodies, Trusts and Registered Voluntary Organizations. Some of the trades in which training is imparted, include computer programming, medical transcription, electronics, assembling, consumer electronics repair, radio & television repairs, garment making, handloom weaving,

handicrafts, secretarial practice, community health work, embroidery, etc. Financial assistance is also provided to the grantee organizations for hiring of training-cum-production sheds, training cost, machinery & equipments, stipend to trainees and remuneration for the trainers. The upper ceiling for assistance under this scheme is Rs.8000/- per beneficiary.

2.4.3 Since 1996-1997, the assistance by NORAD was supplemented with domestic resources. GOI has finally decided to discontinue receiving aid from small bilateral donors including Norway in accordance with the new aid policy. The NORAD assistance, therefore, will not be available henceforth.

2.4.4 The performance of the project has been rated high by an independent team of NORAD which evaluated the programme. The programme has also been listed as a best practice for replication in other developing countries.



2.4.5 The State Women's Development Corporations (WDCs) are the nodal agencies for implementation of the scheme mostly through the voluntary organizations in the States.



However, in the States with no WDCs, the programme is being implemented by State Social Welfare Advisory Boards or through the NGOs. Many training programmes in new areas like computers, electronics, medical transcriptions, etc. are being conducted by the State Government Undertakings specializing in computers, etc. The Women Development Corporations are required to have a pre-appraisal of project proposals and mid-term monitoring and evaluations of sanctioned projects.

2.4.6 In order to enhance the involvement of the States in the implementation of the programme, a State Level Empowered Committee has been set up in each State which is chaired by the Secretary in charge of Women and Child Development/Social Welfare in the State. The State level Empowered Committee scrutinizes the project proposals received from the NGOs/ Corporations/ Undertakings and submits the same, along with its recommendations, to GOI for consideration. All eligible and complete project proposals received through the State level Empowered Committees are placed before the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of the Department for approval.



2.4.7 As many as 463 proposals (including second instalment cases), benefiting 71,240 women were approved during 2003-04 involving an expenditure of Rs.20.22 crore. Details of projects sanctioned and beneficiaries thereunder are given at **Annexure-VI**

Working Women's Hostels

2.5.1 The scheme of assistance for construction or expansion of hostel buildings for working women, with day care centers for children, is being implemented since 1972.



Under this Scheme, financial assistance is provided to non-governmental organizations, cooperative bodies and other agencies engaged in the field of women's social welfare, women's education, public sector undertakings, women's development corporations, local bodies, universities, state governments etc., for construction of buildings for working women's hostels. This scheme envisages provision for safe and affordable accommodation to working women (single working women, women working at places away from their home-towns, working but husband out of town, widows, divorcees, separated women etc.) and women being trained for employment and girl students studying in post-school

professional courses. Trainees are permitted to stay for a period up to one year and girl students for a period up to five years, but with the condition that first preference would be given to working women. It is also stipulated in the scheme guidelines that the category of women who are being trained for employment and girl students should not exceed 30% of the total number of women in a hostel.

2.5.2 During the year 2003-04, an amount of Rs. 5.16 crore was sanctioned under this Scheme to benefit 1188 women through 13 new hostels as per details given at **Annexure-VII**

2.5.3 The distribution of Working Women's Hostels with day care centers for children across the States as on 31.3.2004 is given at **Annexure-VIII**.

Swadhar

2.6.1 This scheme was launched by the Department during the year 2001-2002 as a central sector scheme for providing the holistic and integrated services to women in difficult circumstances, such as destitute widows deserted by their families in religious places like Vrindavan and Kashi; women prisoners released from jail and without family support; women



survivors of natural disasters who have been rendered homeless and are without any social and economic support; trafficked women/girls rescued or runaway from brothels or other places or victims of sexual crimes, who are disowned by family or who do not want to go back to their respective family for various reasons; women victims of terrorist violence who are without any family support; mentally challenged women who are without any support of family or relatives, etc.

2.6.2 The package of services made available under the Scheme include provision for food, clothing, shelter, health care counselling and legal support; social and economic rehabilitation through education, awareness generation, skill upgradation and behavioral training. The scheme also supports a helpline for women in distress.

2.6.3 The project is implemented through a variety of agencies including women and child development departments of State governments, social welfare boards, women development corporations, urban bodies etc. provided they have the needed experience and expertise in the rehabilitation of such women on a project to project basis. Presently 31 projects are being funded under the Swadhar Scheme

2.6.4 An amount of Rs. 1.10 crore was released under the scheme during the year 2003-04 to benefit 400 women as per details are given at **Annexure-IX**. Eleven new voluntary organizations have received grants during 2003-04 for running Swadhar Homes.

Stree Shakti Puraskar

2.7.1 This award, instituted in the year 1999, is given on an annual basis in the name of five eminent women personalities of Indian history, namely



Kannagi, Mata Jijabai, Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar, Rani Lakshmi Bai and Rani Gaidinliu to recognize services of an exceptional nature in the areas of education, health, agriculture, rural industry, protection of forest and environment, awareness generation and consciousness on women's issues through art and media. Each

award carries a cash prize of Rupees one lakh and a citation. The awards for the year 2001 were distributed by the Hon'ble Vice President of India in a function organized at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 26-03-2003. Details of the awardees for the year 2001 are given in the table below:

Recipients of Stree Shakti Puraskar for 2001

S.No.	Name of the Award	Name of the Recipient
1.	Kannagi Stree Shakti Puraskar	Smt. Satya Rani Chadha, Delhi
2.	Mata Jijabai Stree Shakti Puraskar	Smt. Mukta P. Dagli, Dist. Surender Nagar (Gujarat)
3.	Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Stree Shakti Puraskar	Smt. Thamma Pawar Dist. Thane (Maharashtra)
4.	Jhansi Ki Rani Laxmibai Stree Shakti Puraskar	Dr (Ms) Mah-Naaz Warsi Kolkata (West Bengal)
5.	Rani Gaidinliu Stree Shakti Puraskar	Smt. Sumani Jhodia Dist. Raigarh (Orissa)

MOU with UNIFEM

2.8.1 A Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Women and Child Development and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) was signed and came into force with effect from 30th July 2003. The MOU was made recognizing the need for closer coordination between the Government of India and UNIFEM with regard to the latter's field level activities in India. The MoU was signed by the Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development on behalf of Government of India and Ms.

Chandni Joshi, Regional Programme Director, UNIFEM on behalf of UNIFEM, in New Delhi, in the presence of Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Minister of Human Resource Development and Smt. Jaskaur Meena, MOS (HRD). Consequent to the signing of the MoU, DWCD and UNIFEM would jointly identify the areas of operation for UNIFEM in India, taking into account the national development plans and priorities and goals laid down in Government of India's National Policy for the Empowerment of Women and those goals that have been set in the current Five Year Plan.

Chapter-3

Programmes for Children

INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (ICDS) SCHEME

Objectives

3.1.1 The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme was launched in 1975 with the following objectives:

- (i) to improve the nutritional and health status of children below the age of six years and pregnant and lactating mothers;
- (ii) to lay the foundation for the proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;
- (iii) to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, mal-nutrition and school drop-outs;
- (iv) to achieve effective coordination of policy and implementation among various departments to promote child development;
- (v) to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper health and nutrition education.

Services

3.1.2 The Scheme provides a package of services, as indicated

below, to children below six years and pregnant women & nursing mothers:

- (i) supplementary nutrition,
- (ii) immunization,
- (iii) health check up,
- (iv) referral services,
- (v) pre-school non-formal education,
- (vi) nutrition & health education

Pattern

3.1.3 The Integrated Child Development Services is a Centrally sponsored Scheme wherein the Central Government is responsible for programme planning and operating costs while the State Governments are responsible for programme implementation and providing supplementary nutrition out of States' resources.





Population norms

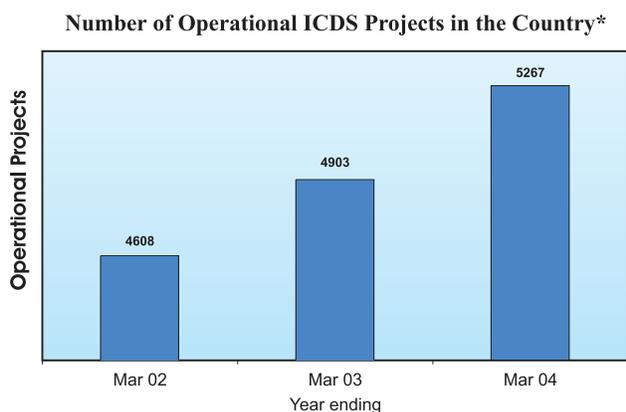
3.1.4 The guidelines of the scheme envisage one rural/urban project for one lakh population and one tribal project for 35,000 population, with one Anganwadi Centre for a population of one thousand in rural/urban projects and seven hundred in tribal projects.

Projects

3.1.5 Launched in 1975 on an experimental basis in 33 Projects (Blocks), the Scheme was gradually expanded to 5652 Projects, out of which 5267 Projects have become operational as on 31.3.2004. This includes 922 Projects being funded with World Bank Assistance. The State-wise position of sanctioned and operational Projects/Anganwadi Centres is given in **Annexure-X**

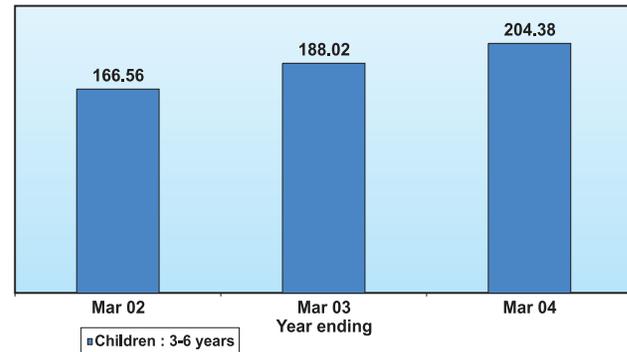
Beneficiaries

3.1.6 Services under the scheme are presently being made available to about 415.09 lakh beneficiaries comprising of about 341.51 lakh children (0-6 Years) and 73.58 lakh pregnant and lactating mothers through a network of 6.41 lakh Anganwadi Centres.



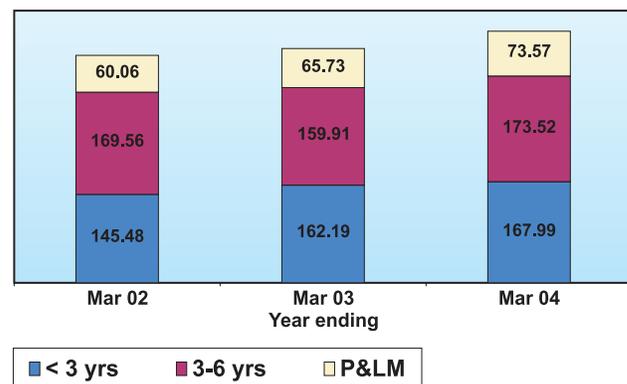
* Including World Bank Assisted ICDS Projects

Number of Pre-school Children (3-6 years) attending Anganwadi Centre for PSE*



* Including World Bank Assisted ICDS Projects

Number of Supplementary Nutrition Beneficiaries under ICDS*



* Including World Bank Assisted ICDS Projects

ICDS Scheme in X Plan

3.1.7 The Scheme has been approved for implementation in the X Plan within the already sanctioned 5652 Projects with no provision for expansion in view of resource constraints.

3.1.8 The need to make all the sanctioned Projects and Centers operational has been reiterated to the State Governments time and again. In a Public Interest Litigation filed before the Supreme Court, the court also has directed the States to operationalise all sanctioned Anganwadi Centres by 30.6.2004.

3.1.9 With a view to optimize the coverage of beneficiaries within the available resources, the States have been permitted to relocate

existing Anganwadi Centres, wherever necessary, within the overall ceiling of sanctioned Projects/Centers.

3.1.10 Expenditure: Alongside gradual expansion of the Scheme, there has been a significant increase in the spending of Central Government on implementation of the Scheme. As against an expenditure of Rs. 2271.28 crore during the VIII Plan, a sum of Rs. 4556.52 crore was spent on the Scheme in the IX Plan. The X Plan allocation is Rs. 10391.75 crore which is more than double the expenditure incurred during the IX Plan. Details of funds released to the States for the years 2002-03 & 2003-04 is given in **Annexure-XI**.

Supplementary Nutrition

3.1.11 Under the scheme, States are responsible for providing supplementary nutrition to the beneficiaries as per nutritional norms indicated in the table:

Beneficiaries	Calories (cal)	Protein (g)
Children 6 months-3 years	300	8-10
Children 3-6 years	300	8-10
Severely malnourished Children	600	16-20
Pregnant & Lactating (P&L) Mothers	500	20-25



Financial Norms

3.1.12 The nature and type of food provided as supplementary nutrition varies from State to State. In view of price escalation over the years, the States have to necessarily assess the current



unit cost of meeting the nutritional norms and make adequate provision in the budget accordingly. To ensure that the States actually make required provision in their budget for supplementary nutrition, the Planning Commission has also been requested to take up this aspect during formulation of Annual Plans of the States.

Registration

3.1.13 States have to ensure registration of all eligible beneficiaries in accordance with the applicable guidelines & norms. The norms are based on average population covered by an AWC and were indicated in the year 1982 based on the census data of 1981. They imply coverage of 40 children in 0-3 years age-group, 40 children in 3-6 years age-group and 20 pregnant and lactating women (including 4 being those recommended by the ANM/Doctor on medical grounds), per AWC, in non-tribal areas. The corresponding figures for tribal areas are 42, 42 & 25, respectively.



Critical Statistics of ICDS Scheme [As on March 31, 2004]

1 Blocks/States & UT:

1.i.	Total no. of Blocks/States & UTs in the country [Tribal : 759; Urban : 360; Rural : 4533]	5652 blocks; 35 States/UTs
1.ii.a	Total no. of APER (W.B.) Blocks in Andhra Pradesh	143 new blocks; 1 State
1.ii.b	Total no. of ICDS III (W.B.) Blocks/States & UTs [Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, M.P., Orissa & Uttranchal]	779 new blocks; 11 States
1.ii.c	Total no. of operational ICDS Projects*	5267 projects [General + World Bank]
1.ii.d	Total no. of ICDS Projects reporting* (latest)	5254 projects
1.iii	Total no. of Blocks covered by KSY/States & UTs	2000 blocks; 35 States/UTs
1.iv.	Total no. of CARE Blocks/States & UTs [A.P., Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, M.P., Rajasthan, Orissa, U.P. & West Bengal]	735 blocks; 9 States
1.v	Total no. of WFP Blocks/States & UTs [M.P., Rajasthan, Orissa & Uttranchal]	87 blocks; 4 States
1.vi.a	No. of AWCs Sanctioned in reporting ICDS Projects*	744673
i.vi.b	No. of AWCs reporting*	641294

2 Norms*

2.i	Nutritional norms [300 days in a year]
2.i.a.	0-3 years: 300 calories & 8-10 g protein
2.i.b.	3-6 years: -do-
2.i.c.	[Severely malnourished]: double of the above
2.i.d.	P&LM : 500 calories & 20-25 g protein
2.i.e.	AG: -do-
2.ii.	Financial Norm: As much as is required to meet the prescribed nutritional norms
2.iii.	Registration norms (indicative): 40 for 0-3 years; 40 for 3-6 years; 20 (16+4 referral) for P&LM and 2 for AG, per AWC.

3 Registration*

3.i.	Beneficiaries for Supplementary Nutrition	Number	Coverage per AWC
3.i.a	0-3 years	16798824	32
3.i.b	3-6 years	17352353	33
3.i.c	P&LM	7357501	14
3.i.d	Total :	41508678	80
3.ii.	Beneficiaries for Pre-School Education		
3.ii.a	3-6 years	20438002	33

4 Staffing Position [in reporting projects]*

	Sanctioned	In-position	Vacant	
4.i.	CDPOs/ACDPOs	7447	5258	2189
4.ii.	Supervisors	34043	22013	12030
4.iii.	AWWs	727879	636105	91774

*Including World Bank Assisted ICDS Projects.

Kishori Shakti Yojana

3.2.1 An intervention for adolescent girls (11-18 years) the Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) was launched in 2000-01 as part of the ICDS scheme. This Scheme is currently being implemented in 2000 ICDS Projects. Kishori Shakti Yojana is being implemented through Anganwadi Centres in both rural and urban areas. The scheme aims at breaking the inter-generational life-cycle of nutritional and gender disadvantage and providing a supportive environment for self-development. The objectives of the Scheme are:-

- i. to improve the nutritional and health status of girls in the age group of 11-18 years;
- ii. to provide the required literacy and numeracy skills through the non-formal stream of education; to stimulate a desire for more social exposure and knowledge and to help them improve their decision making capabilities;
- iii. to train and equip the adolescent girls to improve/ upgrade home-based and vocational skills;
- iv. to promote awareness about health, hygiene, nutrition, family welfare, home management and child care, and to take all measures to facilitate their marrying only after attaining the age of 18 years and if possible, even later;
- v. to enable them to gain a better understanding of their environment related social issues and the impact on their lives; and
- vi. to encourage adolescent girls to initiate various activities to be productive and useful members of the society.

3.2.2 The funds under the Scheme, @ Rs. 1.10 lakh per block per annum, are made available to the States/UTs.

Nutrition Component under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)

3.3.1 PMGY envisages an Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for the basic minimum services of primary health, primary education, rural shelter, safe drinking water, rural electrification and nutrition in order to focus on these priority areas. The allocation under nutrition component of PMGY is essentially meant as an additionality for providing enhanced nutritional requirement to children in 0-3 years. States are required to ensure that all the children in 0-3 years age-group belonging to below poverty line



(BPL) families are registered for PMGY and are provided roasted coarsely ground cereal, pulse, oil seed based take home food supplement for 1-4 weeks to the mother of the child for feeding 4-5 times a day at home by supplementing the States commitment for supplementary nutrition with adequate ACA under PMGY.



3.3.2 PMGY is to be treated as an additional central assistance given specifically to prevent under nutrition in children of 0-3 years and not as a substitute to States' own plan outlays for supplementary nutrition.

3.3.3 In the case of special category States, the Planning Commission has however, clarified that if the funds available for nutrition are more than what is required to provide take-home food supplement to children below 3 years of age, the same may be used to provide supplements, as per ICDS guidelines, to under-nourished children with Grade III & IV nutritional deficiencies (irrespective of age) and also to undernourished pregnant & lactating women.

WORLD BANK ASSISTED ICDS PROJECTS

ICDS-II Project (1993-2002)

3.4.1 The ICDS-II project, implemented in the erstwhile States of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, ended on 30th September, 2002. The total outlay for the project was Rs.596.23 crores and the approved IDA credit was US \$ 194 million. Following re-organisation of the States of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh in November 2000, the Project was also bifurcated and approved provisions were apportioned between the States of Bihar/Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh. The Project fully utilized the approved IDA credit of US \$ 194 million. The expansion of ICDS as scheduled under the project was achieved and a large number of civil works were completed. The service quality improvement was addressed through improved health/nutrition coordination (joint training) and improved de-centralised pre-service training of functionaries besides improved physical inputs.

ICDS-III/Women and Child Development Project (1999-2004)

3.4.2 Originally, the World Bank assisted ICDS-III Project covered five States of Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The approved IDA Credit for the project is US \$ 300 million (including nationwide training component). It covered 1003 blocks with 318 new blocks where ICDS has been introduced and 685 old blocks where the services have been enriched. All the new ICDS blocks (318) under the Project have been operationalised. The project supports all costs for the expansion and incremental operational costs for the old blocks. The project components are as follows:-

- (i) Service Delivery: Service Quality Improvement, Women's Empowerment, staffing and infrastructure development.
- (ii) Program Support: Management and Institutional Development, Community Mobilizations and IEC Training, Monitoring and Evaluation.

3.4.3 Due to delayed start and slow implementation of ICDS-III in the initial years and due to depreciation of Indian Rupee vis-a-vis U.S. Dollar, some savings were identified. To utilize these savings, the project was restructured and the States of M.P., Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa and Uttaranchal have been included for the remaining period of the project from 1.10.2002 to 30.9.2004. Provisions have been made for Civil Works, Innovatives and AG Scheme in all the aforesaid 6 States. In addition, provision for base cost has been made in respect of the States of M.P., Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. An outlay of Rs.575.44 crore has been proposed for these States. Besides, provision of Rs.42.15 crore has been made for construction of 4496 Anganwadi Buildings in the non-World Bank, non-NE and

Sikkim States. In the process, outlay for the original five States has been reduced to Rs.793.44 crore. Thus, revised outlay for World Bank assisted ICDS-III Project excluding training component viz., UDISHA works out to Rs.1411.03 crore. Details of funds released to the States during 2002-03, 2003-04 and the project period are given in **Annexure-XII**.

ICDS APER Project (1999-2004)

3.4.4 World Bank-assisted ICDS component of APER Programme was made effective in 1999 to cover 251 blocks in Andhra Pradesh. The project was included under ICDS-II from October 2000 to September 2002. Thereafter, this has again come under the original APER Programme. The Project components are similar to that of ICDS-III Project. The total outlay is Rs.392.75 crore with IDA (World Bank) credit of US \$ 75 million. The State has made satisfactory progress and the women are being oriented to work as social mobilizers for achieving project development objectives and outcomes. The procurement and distribution of supplementary feeding material has been decentralized with greater community involvement in monitoring at the village level.

UDISHA – ICDS TRAINING PROGRAMME (1999-2004)

3.5.1 Training is the most crucial element in ICDS as achievement of programme goals depends upon the effectiveness of frontline workers in improved delivery of packages of services under ICDS. Keeping in view the importance of the programme and its likely positive impact on the quality of ICDS Scheme, the World Bank agreed to provide financial assistance for training of ICDS functionaries over a period of five years. Udisha had an outlay of Rs.600.55 crore over a five-year period from 1999 which has since been reduced to Rs.409.03

crore under the restructured project. It has three main components, viz. i. Regular Training (wherein basic job training is provided), ii. Other Training (wherein innovative, area specific trainings are provided) and iii. IEC.

3.5.2 For timely and qualitative implementation of the Project, State Training Action Plans for 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto 30.9.2004) were approved for (i) fulfilling the physical targets for regular training as per the Project Implementation Plans, (ii) the revision and adaptation of the training syllabi for ICDS functionaries; (iii) the qualitative and productive implementation of the 'Other Training' and 'IEC' etc. components; and (iv) all round qualitative delivery and sustainability.

3.5.3 NIPCCD has revised the training module for job training of all categories of functionaries and States had been requested to impart training to the functionaries as per revised syllabus and incorporate 25% State specific subjects in the revised syllabi. The revised duration of training of CDPOs/ACDPOs as well as that of AWWs is of 52 days. Over 5 lakh ICDS functionaries have been given job training and about 2.30 lakh have been given refresher training. State-wise funds released so far are given in **Annexure-XIII**, of which 51.55 crore was released in 2003-04.

3.5.4 Evaluation of the Udisha Project:- On the request of the World Bank, evaluation of the project Udisha was initiated through NIPCCD. M/s ORG Centre for Social Research was assigned the task of evaluation by NIPCCD. The fieldwork was conducted during April – June, 2003 covering 15 States.

CARE

3.6.1 Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), an international voluntary



organization had been providing food aid namely Corn Soya Blend (CSB) and Refined Vegetable Oil (RVO) for supplementary nutrition under the ICDS Scheme in some Projects in the States of Andhra Pradesh (70 projects), Bihar (36 projects), Jharkhand (116 projects), Madhya Pradesh (29 projects), Chattisgarh (96 projects), Orissa (104 projects), Rajasthan (64 projects), Uttar Pradesh (132 projects) and West Bengal (88 projects). The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) under the Ministry of Environment and Forests has not accorded approval to the import of Corn Soya Blend by CARE. The food aid by CARE is now limited to Refined Vegetable Oil (RVO) and the States have to provide matching food grains.

3.6.2 Besides, CARE is implementing some non-food Projects in areas of maternal and child health, girls' primary education, micro-credit etc.

WFP

3.7.1 World Food Programme (WFP) a UN Agency has been extending food aid for supplementary nutrition in some ICDS Projects in the States of Madhya Pradesh (19 projects), Orissa (32 projects), Rajasthan (20 projects) and Uttaranchal (16 projects) covering about 8.65 lakh beneficiaries.

Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP)

1.8.1 The Government of India, allocates food grains (wheat & rice) at BPL prices to the States, on their demand, for meeting with their requirement for providing supplementary nutrition to beneficiaries under the ICDS Scheme. Due to concerted efforts in this regard there has been substantial increase in the allotment of food grains to the States. In 2001-02, 255317 MTs of food grains were allotted to

States which increased to 474356 MTs in 2002-03 and 534912 MTs in 2003-04.

Special focus on North-East

3.9.1 Keeping in view the special needs of North Eastern States, the Central Government sanctioned construction of 4800 Anganwadi Centres at the cost of Rs. 60 crore in 2001-02. Construction of 7600 more Anganwadi Centres, at a cost of Rs. 95 crore, was sanctioned in 2002-03. With this, the ICDS Projects in North Eastern States have been brought at par with the World Bank assisted projects where civil works are the main additionality.

The Anganwadi Workers/Helpers

3.10.1 Anganwadi Worker, though an honorary worker, is the most visible village level functionary of the Government and is being increasingly used for delivery of services under many other programmes and schemes of the Central & State Governments.

3.10.2 In recognition of the significant services being rendered by these critical grassroots-level functionaries in the ICDS set-up, the honoraria being paid to Anganwadi Workers & Helpers by the Govt. of India has been almost doubled with effect from 1st April, 2002. At present, Anganwadi Workers are paid honoraria ranging from Rs. 938/- to Rs. 1063/- per month depending upon their qualification and experience and Anganwadi Helper Rs. 500/- per month.

Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana

3.11.1 The Govt. of India has provided insurance cover to the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers through an insurance scheme named "Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana" under the Life Insurance Corporation's Social Security

Group Scheme with effect from 1.4.2004. The premium under the scheme is Rs. 280/- per annum per member. Out of this Rs. 100/- will be borne by the LIC of India out of their Social Security Fund, Rs. 100/- by the Government of India and the balance Rs. 80/- will be paid by AWW/Helper.

Prime Minister's Employment Package for Jammu & Kashmir

3.12.1 On the basis of the recommendations of a Task Force constituted under Prime Minister's Employment Package for Jammu & Kashmir, 1500 additional Anganwadi Centres have been sanctioned with one Anganwadi Worker and Helper for each Centre. In addition, 60 posts of Supervisors have also been sanctioned for these 1500 additional centres.



Achievement during X Plan

- ❑ Number of Operational Projects has increased from 4608 in March 2002 to 5262 in March 2004.
- ❑ Number of beneficiaries for supplementary nutrition has increased from 375.10 lakh in March 2002 to 415.09 lakh in March 2004.
- ❑ Similarly number of children (3-6 years) attending pre-school education have increased from 166.56 lakh in March 2002 to 204.38 lakh in March 2004.

Creches/Day Care Centres for Children of Working and Ailing Mothers

3.13.1 This Central Sector Scheme was introduced in 1975 in pursuance of the objectives of the National Policy for Children

adopted in 1974. The scheme aims to provide Day Care Services to children (0-5 years) of parents whose income does not exceed Rs.1800 per month. The facilities provided to children under the scheme include sleeping and day care facilities, supplementary nutrition, immunization, medicines and recreation.

3.13.2 Children of casual, migrant, construction/agricultural labourers are the main beneficiaries under the scheme, specially when they are sick or incapacitated due to one reason or other. The scheme is being implemented through the Central Social Welfare Board and two other national level voluntary organizations, namely Indian Council for Child Welfare and the Bhartiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh all over the country. An amount of Rs.19.23 crore was released under the scheme to benefit 33.11 lakh children during the year 2003-04.

NATIONAL CRECHE FUND

3.14.1 The Government had set up a corpus of Rs.19.90 crore during the year 1993-94 with a view to meet the growing need for opening more crèches. Assistance under the scheme is made available to registered voluntary organizations/mahila mandals to convert



and UNICEF on 10th May, 1949 as amended on 5th April, 1978. On 10th May, 2002, the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) adopted an ambitious agenda for children for the current decade titled “A World Fit for Children”. This document (A World Fit For Children) acknowledges the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols as a comprehensive set of international standards for the protection and well-being of children.

existing Anganwadi Centres into Anganwadi – cum- Creche Centres and this assistance comes out of the interest earned from the corpus fund. The scheme covers 4286 general crèches and 599 Anganwadi-cum-Creche Centres benefiting 1.22 lakh children. An amount of Rs.2.53 crore was released under the scheme during 2003-04.

3.14.2 Details of number of creches sanctioned and beneficiaries there under are given at **Annexure-XIV**

INDO-UNICEF COOPERATION

3.15.1 India is a partner with UNICEF in the implementation of child-related strategies and programmes since the signing of the Basic Agreement between the Government of India

3.15.2 India had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in December, 1992 and endorsed the Plan of Action adopted in “A World Fit for Children” at UNGASS, 2002. Since many of the commitments under the above agreements are in consonance with the National Policy for Children (1974), the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC, 1992) and the principles outlined in the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Govt. of India have entered into an agreement with UNICEF to implement their country programme through Master Plan of Operation (MPO). An MPO for the period 1999-2002 has already been implemented. Another MPO covering the period 2003-07 was signed on 13.1.2003 with the following priorities:-



- ❑ Reduction in IMR and MMR through appropriate interventions in health, nutrition, safe water, sanitation and hygiene, and special care for girls and women;
- ❑ Reduction in child mal-nutrition and incidence of low birth weight to improve proper early childhood development and improvement in caring practices;
- ❑ Ensuring quality elementary education for all children;

- ❑ Enhancing child protection including progressive elimination of child labour, prevention of child sexual abuse and child trafficking; and
- ❑ Protecting children and adolescents from HIV/AIDS.

3.15.3 A commitment of US \$ 150.39 million has been made from the UNICEF Regular Resources for the period beginning 1st January, 2003 ending 31st December, 2007 as per details given below:-

	<i>(In thousand US \$)</i>		
	Regular Resources	Other Resources	Total
Reproductive and Child Health	19 566	80 500	106 066
Child Development and Nutrition	24 610	32 000	56 610
Child's Environment Sanitation, Hygiene and Water Supply	24 070	40 000	64 070
Elementary Education	24 590	33 000	57 590
HIV/AIDS	7 500	32 000	39 500
Child Protection	10 000	25 000	35 000
Advocacy and Partnerships	9 500	500	10 000
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	8 000	1 000	9 000
Cross-sectoral costs	22 558	-	22 558
Total	150 394	250 000	400 394

3.15.4 The Master Plan of Operations 2003-07 is in operation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Uttranchal with the involvement of the following Ministries and Departments in the Government of India for which the Department of Women and Child Development is the nodal administrative wing:-

1. Department of Elementary Education and Literacy
2. Department of Family Welfare
3. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
4. Ministry of Labour
5. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

6. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
7. Department of Women and Child Development
8. Department of Drinking Water Supply

3.15.5 A meeting was held with participating Union Ministries/Departments and State Governments on 4th September, 2003 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi to review the progress of implementation of Master Plan of Operation (MPO). The Best Governance Practices with regard to implementation of MPO were also discussed in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by MOS (HRD) and the visiting Executive Director of UNICEF, Ms Carol Bellamy, along with her team, participated in the discussion. The team expressed satisfaction on the overall performance of the project in the States and Ministries and Departments in the Government of India.



SAARC MEETING

3.16.1 It may be recalled that Tenth SAARC Summit held in Colombo on July 29-31, 1998 had directed the Council of Ministers of SAARC countries to initiate work on drawing up a Social Charter encompassing the concerns of the countries across the region in the areas of poverty reduction, population stabilization, empowerment of women, youth mobilization, human resources development, promotion of health, nutrition and protection of children. Subsequently, the Council of Ministers agreed to constitute an Inter-Governmental Expert Group (IGEG) to proceed with the work on the Charter. The first meeting of the Inter-Governmental Expert Group was held in Colombo in April, 2001. A Second meeting of the Inter-Governmental Expert Group was held in Kathmandu on 01-2 November, 2003 which was attended by the Joint Secretary and the Desk Officer dealing with Child Welfare in the Department. This meeting finalised the draft text of the Social Charter for consideration of the Competent Authority which has since been approved by the Twelfth Summit of the SAARC Countries held in Islamabad in January, 2004.

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN

3.17.1 Though several provisions exist in the Constitution of India to protect and promote the growth and welfare of children, experience has proved that interactions with several Union Ministries/Departments/States/UTs/NGOs are required for the effective implementation of programmes and policies affecting children. Accordingly, a decision has been taken to constitute a National Commission for Children in order to address issues pertaining to them in a holistic manner. A Bill to constitute the National Commission for Children has been framed and laid on the table of the Lok Sabha

on 5.12.2003. The Bill lapsed due to the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

NATIONAL CHARTER FOR CHILDREN

3.18.1 The National Charter for Children is a policy document adopted by the Government highlighting the roles and responsibilities of both the Government and the community towards children and the duties of children towards their families, society and the country. It has been notified in the Official Gazette of India on 9th February, 2004(**Annexure-XV**).

NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN

3.19.1 India is a signatory to the ambitious UN Agenda entitled "A World Fit for Children", adopted during the United Nations' General Assembly Special Session on 10th May, 2002 (UNGASS-2002) upholding the commitments to the following principles and objectives:

- Put children first;
- Eradicate poverty : Invest in Children;
- Leave no child behind;
- Care for every child;
- Educate every child;
- Protect children from harm and exploitation;
- Protect children from war;
- Combat HIV/AIDS;
- Listen to children and ensure their participation;
- Protect the Earth for children.

3.19.2 In consonance with the above principles, and on the basis of Prime Minister's announcement on the occasion of Independence Day, 2002 a National Plan of Action to address issues pertaining to children in terms of monitoring targets has been prepared. The approval of the cabinet could not be obtained due to dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR CHILD WELFARE

3.19.3 In 1979, the Government of India started a scheme of giving National Awards to deserving institutions and individuals for their outstanding contribution in the field of child development and welfare. The Award carries a cash prize of Rupees three lakh and a citation in the case of institutions, and a cash prize of Rupees one lakh and a citation in the case of individuals. The list of awardees for the years 2001 and 2002 is given at (**Annexure-XVI**).

3.19.4 These awards were given away at a function organized at the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi on 14th November, 2003 which was attended by HRM, MOS (HRD) and MOS (Communication)

RAJIV GANDHI MANAV SEVA AWARD

3.20.1 This award was instituted in the year 1994 in honour of the late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to honour an individual who makes outstanding contribution towards service for children, especially children with various kinds of disabilities. The award carries a cash prize of Rupees one lakh, a silver plaque and a citation. The award for the years 2001 and 2002 were given away to Shri Mohanlal Jain of Rajasthan (2001) and Km Arunaben Shankar Prasad Desai of Gujarat (2002) in a function organized at the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi on 14th November, 2003.

NATIONAL CHILD AWARDS FOR EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

3.21.1 The National Child Award for Exceptional Achievements was instituted in 1996 to give recognition to children with exceptional abilities in the age group of 4-15 years who have shown exceptional achievement in any field, including academics, arts, culture, sports, etc. The award carries incentives as detailed below:

(A) Gold Medal – 1 (One)

- (i) A cash prize of Rs.20,000/-
- (ii) A citation and certificate, and
- (iii) A Gold Medal

(B) Silver Medals – 35 (Thirty five)

- (i) Award money @ Rs.10,000/- for each awardee
- (ii) A citation and certificate for each awardee, and
- (iii) A Silver Medal for each awardee

The list of awardees for the year 2002 is given at **Annexure-XVII**

NATIONAL BRAVERY AWARD

3.22.1 This is an award instituted through the Indian Council for Child Welfare since 1957. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 5000/- each, a medal and a certificate. The list of awardees for the year 2003 is given at **Annexure-XVIII**. For the year 2003-04 an amount of Rs. 4.27 lakhs was released by the Department to ICCW to meet the expenditure (100%) towards cash awards.



Chapter-4

Other Programmes

Grant-in-aid for Research, Publication and Monitoring

The Department is operating a scheme of grants-in-aid for research, publication and monitoring since 1986-87. The object of this scheme is to promote research studies for testing the feasibility and efficacy of programmes and services on emerging issues in the field of women and child development. It also supports workshops / seminars which help to formulate research proposals likely to be helpful in planning and implementing the existing programmes. A list of projects supported under the scheme during the year 2003-04 is at **Annexure-XIX**.

Information, Publication and Mass Media

4.2.1 Information and Mass Media has remained a very critical component in the functioning of the Department. The Media Unit took up sustained multi-media campaigns through electronic and print media for creating awareness about issues concerning the development of women and children.

4.2.2 Press advertisements were released in prominent newspapers to inform, educate and motivate people, for bringing about attitudinal changes to achieve social development goals. Mobilization of public opinion on issues pertaining to the girl child, the development of children, women's nutrition, equal status for women and social evils like child marriage, dowry, gender discrimination, sexual abuse of

girl child, exploitation of women and children has been the focus for all media activities.

4.2.3 Department's weekly sponsored radio programme '**Aakash Hamara Hai**' which aims to generate awareness about social issues concerning women and children is being broadcast regularly through 31 Commercial Broadcasting Stations of Vividh Bharati and 15 NER Stations of AIR throughout India in Hindi and regional languages.

Innovative Work on Women and Children

4.3.1 Under the Scheme, assistance is given to voluntary organizations working in the field of child and women welfare for innovative projects and activities which are not covered in the existing schemes of the Department of Women and Child Development.

Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations

4.4.1 A list of voluntary organizations that have received assistance from the Department for various activities in the field of women and child development during 2003/04 is given at **Annexure-XX**.

Use of Hindi in Official Work

4.5.1 During the period under review, efforts were made to achieve the targets fixed by the Department of Official Language in their Annual Programme for the year 2003-04 in

respect of use of Hindi. Article 3 (3) of the Official Languages Act, 1963 is being complied within the Department. Letters received in Hindi were replied to in Hindi. Check Points were strengthened to ensure better compliance of the provisions of the Official Language Act and rules framed there-under. All officers and employees in the Department have working knowledge of Hindi.

4.5.2 The meeting of the Official Language Implementation Committee to review the progress made in the use of Hindi was held under the Chairpersonship of Joint Secretary incharge of Hindi. Quarterly Progress Reports received from the offices under the administrative control of this Department were reviewed and shortcomings, if any, were pointed out to them for taking remedial action. Hindi fortnight was celebrated in the Department from 14th to 28th September, 2003. During this period, Story, Noting and Drafting competitions were organized. Nine officials were awarded prizes.

4.5.3 In addition to the above items of work relating to the implementation of official language policy, the following important documents and material were translated into Hindi during the year under report : -

4.5.4 Annual Report, 2002-03, Performance Budget, 2003-04, materials for Parliamentary Standing Committee, speeches and messages from Prime Minister, Human Resource Development Minister, Minister of State for Women and Child Development and Secretary (WCD) on Universal Children's Day, material relating to Rajiv Gandhi Manav Sewa Puraskar, National Award for Child Welfare, replies to Parliament Questions, Cabinet Notes etc.

Information Technology

4.6.1 National Informatics Centre (NIC) is managing the Computer Centre of the

Department of Women and Child Development which has a Pentium P-IV Processor based Windows NT Server, a Unix Server and a Local Area Network with facilities like information sharing, electronic mail and graphical user interface (GUI) based INTERNET surfing. NIC continued to provide software, hardware and consultancy support to Department in developing computer based Management Information Systems. A team of officers of NIC works in close coordination with the officials of the Department to maintain existing software and develop new programmes.

4.6.2 A brief description of some of the programmes introduced in 2003-04 by the Department with the help of NIC is as follows:

Dak Diary and NGO Grant Monitoring System

- ❑ **Dak Diary** – Tracks all proposals received under various grants-in-aid schemes and gives an on line status of action taken on the proposals received and sanctioned.
- ❑ **NGO directory** - records registration details and other particulars of all voluntary organisations implementing departmental schemes. The software generates a unique code for each NGO based upon the registration number, name and State so as to enable tracking of the performance under various schemes.
- ❑ **Sanctioned Projects details** – captures all important information including location, amount sanctioned and number of beneficiaries of sanctioned projects under various grant-in-aid schemes.
- ❑ **Utilization Certificate details** – captures details of financial releases and submission of Utilization Certificates against these and gives an early warning on delay in implementation of projects.



- ❑ **Reports** – Cover Scheme-wise/State-wise projects, pending/rejected cases, outstanding Utilization Certificates, geographical coverage, cash flows etc.

More than 15,000 records have been entered during 2002-03.

GIS Mapping of schemes of the Department

4.6.3 The Department commissioned the National Informatics Centre to develop network based GIS application, integrating spatial data up to state, district and village level and non-spatial data including DWCD data and census.

4.6.4 This software maps all sanctioned projects under grants in aid schemes, up to the district level to give a graphical depiction of regional spread of various schemes and identify areas requiring interventions. For example, the software enables listing of districts where no projects have been sanctioned under a scheme like Working Women Hostel or Short Stay Homes and lists all districts where no projects of Women and Child Development have been sanctioned so far. This software will enable a more focused approach in planning for investments under various schemes.

4.6.5 Some of the application softwares in use in the Department include the following:

- ❑ **Intranet based Integrated Office Automation** A web based application has been designed and developed for office automation procedures like Personnel Information, Office Orders/Circulars, Payroll, GPF, Income Tax, Leave Records, Official Forms, etc. The Department is updating the relevant data regularly and the employees are using this system to get their Circulars, Pay Slips, GPF Statements, IT Statements, forms, etc from this website directly. This system is developed using ASP and MSSQL Server.
- ❑ **Budget Monitoring System-** was developed and implemented in the Finance wing of the Department. It is an online application capturing scheme wise details of funds sanctioned and released.
- ❑ **Swawlamban and STEP Grant Monitoring System-** was developed for monitoring the implementation of Women's Economic Programmes. The database consists of information regarding details of voluntary organizations who have applied for or availed of grants under the programme, the nature of training programme, duration and course content, enrolment and number of beneficiaries, financial sanctions etc. The system generates various types of reports for efficient management of the programme.
- ❑ **Management Information System-** for monitoring the scheme of Integrated Child Development Services has been in operation for more than 10 years. The package has been implemented at a geographically wider area in the country comprising Central, State and District levels. NICNET communication facility has been extensively used for transmission of information from/to District and State Administrations.
- ❑ **File Status Information System (FSIS)** and other related software were developed in the office of Minister and residence of Minister of State.
- ❑ NIC has computerized the **Payroll System for Central Social Welfare Board.**
- ❑ NIC provided assistance to the Parliament Section for regular on line transmission of **Parliament Questions** to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

- ❑ The Department of Women and Child Development has a **website** which is maintained by the NIC and updated periodically.
- ❑ **Computer training** was imparted by NIC to officials of Food and Nutrition Board at three regional centers – Chennai, Calcutta and Mumbai
- ❑ Technical consultancy and guidance to various organizations under the control of the Department like National Commission for Women, NIPCCD, RMK and CSWB is provided by NIC

Special Component Plan (SCP) for SC and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)

2.7.1 The Programmes for women and children implemented by the Department are primarily directed towards the most disadvantaged sections of the population like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other economically backward classes living in backward rural and tribal areas and urban slums. The nature and design of implementation of the programmes is such that it is difficult to design schemes exclusively for SCs and STs or to earmark funds for SCP and TSP. However, every effort is being made to ensure that the benefits of the schemes flow to the disadvantaged sections of the population, including SC and ST, women and children.

2.7.2 The Department has been implementing one of the largest area based scheme, namely the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), which makes up for more than two-thirds of the Department's annual budget. The Annual Plan outlay for the Department for the year 2003-04 was Rs.2600 crore (BE), out of which Rs.2360.97 crore was earmarked for ICDS. The ICDS envisages provision of vital services to most vulnerable groups among disadvantaged sections of the

population, namely SCs/STs. etc. Of 5267 ICDS projects operationalized in the country, 758 projects are located in tribal areas.

2.7.3 Under the scheme of Hostels for Working Women implemented by the Department, there is a stipulation that 15% of the seats in hostels should be reserved for SCs and 7.5% for STs. The schemes of Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) are aimed at improving nutritional status of people in general and of the vulnerable sections of the population in particular.

2.7.4 Most of the programmes of the Department for women are implemented through voluntary organizations. Efforts are made to encourage more and more voluntary organizations to come forth with proposals in tribal and backward rural areas by extending special concessions and relaxations under grants-in-aid. The Central Social Welfare Board has relaxed the condition regarding the minimum experience of three years for voluntary organizations in tribal areas to be eligible for grants-in-aid. Similarly, under the scheme of Condensed Courses of Education for adult women, the Board makes efforts to enroll Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women. In the case of SC and ST candidates, conditions regarding educational qualifications for admission to the courses are relaxed wherever necessary. Records are kept of the SCs and STs admitted to these courses.

Annual Plan and Action Plan

2.8.1 The Department, at the instance of the Cabinet Secretariat, prepared the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for the schemes and activities of the Department, setting out the targets, both financial and physical, for the four quarters of the year. This AAP is monitored on a quarterly basis in the Department to review the financial



and physical achievements as per the targets fixed. This is also being used in the review meetings taken up in the Planning Commission at regular intervals.

Plan for the North-East Region

2.9.1 As per the guidelines of the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance, the Department allocated 10% of the Annual Plan outlay for the implementation of its programmes in the seven North-Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura and the State of Sikkim. During the year, efforts were made to involve social organizations of North East with the existing support available under various grants-in-aid

schemes of the Department of Women and Child Development.

Outstanding Audit Objections

4.10.1 There are 112 audit paras of Audit Inspection Reports of Director General of Audit Central Revenues pending for settlement in the Department as on 31.3.2004.

4.10.2 The latest report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India received by the Department is for the year 2003. A summary of the audit para 2.3 of Report No. 4 of 2003 dealing with the working of Central Social Welfare Board, an autonomous body under the control of this Department, is at **Annexure-XXI** along with position on action taken.

Chapter-5

Food and Nutrition Board

The Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) was established in the Department of Food, Ministry of Agriculture, in 1964 as a non Statutory Ministerial wing with the objective of diversifying Indian diet for improving the nutritional status of the people. The functions of the Board included development and popularisation of subsidiary and protective foods, nutrition education, extension and food management, conservation and efficient utilization of food resources, and food preservation and processing.

5.1.1 The Food and Nutrition Board was transferred to the Department of Women and Child Development with effect from 01.04.1993 in pursuance of the National Nutrition Policy adopted by the Government in 1993. Some of the important activities of the FNB are as under:

- ❑ Nutrition Education and Training,



- ❑ Training in Home Scale Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables and Nutrition,
- ❑ Monitoring of 'Supplementary Feeding' and 'Nutrition and Health Education' components of ICDS,
- ❑ Mass Awareness Campaigns,
- ❑ Development, production and distribution of educational/training material,
- ❑ Mass Media Communication,
- ❑ Development and Promotion of Nutritious Foods,
- ❑ Food Analysis and Standardisation,
- ❑ Follow up action on National Nutrition Policy.

5.1.2 The infrastructure of the FNB comprises of a technical wing at the Centre, four regional offices and quality control laboratories at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkatta and Chennai and 43 Community Food Nutrition and Extension Units (CFNEUs) located in 29 States and UTs, as detailed at **Annexure-XXII**

Nutrition Education and Training

5.2.1 Nutrition education of the people in rural, urban and tribal areas is one of the primary activities of FNB and is carried out through its 43 Community Food and Nutrition Extension Units (CFNEUs) in different States/UTs in collaboration with State



Governments, National Institutes and Social Organizations. Each CFNEU is equipped with a mobile van, audio-visual equipment and is manned by technically trained personnel. FNB Headquarters, through its four Regional Offices, provides the logistic support for the functioning of these units.

5.2.2 In order to disseminate information regarding nutrition at community level, each CFNEU is organizing five-day training programme for Master Trainers comprising Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), Assistant Child Development Project Officers (ACDPOs), Medical Officers, Lady Health Visitors, Senior Supervisors of ICDS/ Instructors who in turn act as trainers for the grass-root ICDS functionaries such as Anganwadi Workers and the community at large. The five day training programme covers various issues relating to nutrition of infants, young children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and various forms of malnutrition, like under-nutrition and deficiency of micro nutrients such as iron, folic acid,

vitamin A and iodine. The programme lays adequate emphasis on community based mechanism for monitoring and reviewing nutrition levels and communicating nutrition information utilizing all available channels. Each CFNEU organizes one Training of Trainers (ToTs) Course for 15 master trainers in each quarter of the year. Each of these master trainers in turn organize four Orientation Training Courses (OTCs) of two day duration for 30 participants comprising grass-root level functionaries and volunteers from community under the supervision of FNB staff. During the year 2003-04, the training programmes, as detailed below were conducted:

S. No.	Name of the course	No. of courses conducted	No. of beneficiaries
1.	Training of Trainers (ToTs)	61	916
2.	Orientation Training Courses (OTCs)	1101	33030

5.2.3 The FNB officials also imparted training to the ICDS functionaries on theoretical and practical aspects of nutrition in the training courses organized by the Regional Centres of NIPCCD.

Training in Home Scale Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables and Nutrition

5.3.1 One-week training courses in Home Scale Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables and Nutrition are organised by CFNEUs for housewives and adolescent girls with a view to promote preservation and consumption of fruits and vegetables, a source of much needed micronutrients, fibre and antioxidants. These training courses also equip the participants with necessary skills which could be used for income generation purposes. Each CFNEU organises one/two training courses per month for 30 participants each. The training courses are also organised for groups/institutions on request including students from educational institutions and schools. A ready reckoner on essentials of preservation and nutrition is distributed to the trainees. The ready-reckoner is being printed in 12 regional languages.

5.3.2 Processing facilities are also provided to the community at these CFNEUs at nominal charges. The members of the community bring the raw material to the Centre and get their

preserved products prepared under the technical guidance of the staff. Processing facilities were discontinued during the year 2002 with a view to focus on nutrition education and training. On



demand from the public, however the processing facilities have been restarted.

5.3.3 Under the **Accelerated Programme for Development of SC/ST community**, four CFNEUs located at Udaipur, Bhopal, Ranchi and Vishakhapatnam organise fruit and vegetable preservation training programmes for SC/ST adolescent girls. A stipend of Rs.100/- per candidate is given to enable these girls to procure raw material for training purposes.

5.3.4 Programmes conducted and beneficiaries thereunder during 2003-04 are given in the table below:

Activity	No. of Programmes	No. of Beneficiaries
Training in Home Scale Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables and Nutrition		
a) FVP & Nutrition Training Courses	778	25847
b) FVP and Nutrition Training courses for SC/ST adolescent girls	18	540



Monitoring of 'Supplementary Feeding' and 'Nutrition and Health Education' components of ICDS

5.4.1 The CFNEUs inspect 'supplementary nutrition' and 'nutrition and health education' components of ICDS in their areas of location. The staff of CFNEU spends a full day at the time of inspection at anganwadi centre and conducts nutrition education demonstration for the benefit of anganwadi workers as well as the community besides undertaking inspections. The observations are reviewed at the headquarters and States requested to take appropriate corrective measures. A total of 4193 inspections were carried out by the field units of FNB in 29 States/UTs during the year 2003-04.

Mass awareness campaigns

5.5.1 Events like National Nutrition Week (1-7 September), World Breast Feeding Week (1-7 August), World Food Day (16th October), Global Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD) Day (21st October), International Women's Day (8th March), Universal Children's Day

(14 November) etc, were organized enlisting cooperation of State Governments, educational institutions, NGOs and the media. These events were marked by the organization of workshops, special nutrition education programmes, exhibitions and coverage through All India Radio, Doordarshan and Press.

5.5.2 The 22nd National Nutrition Week was celebrated throughout the country from 1-7 September, 2003 on the theme "Nutrition and National Development". State level workshops were organized by the CFNEUs involving representatives of State Governments



and field organisations with a view to advocate the cause of nutrition and help plan various programmes in the field. Special programmes on the theme involving media were organised during the Week.

5.5.3 The national telecast of a series of 27 short video films on nutrition prepared by FNB under the title 'Poshan Aur Rashtra Nirman' (Nutrition and National Development) started on 4.9.2003 through national channel of Doordarshan (DD1) on every

Thursday at 9.30 a.m. The Assamese version of the films was telecast through Guwahati Doordarshan w.e.f. 7.9.2003 on every Sunday at 4.15 p.m. Radio jingles on nutrition were also broadcast through FM Stations during the Week.

5.5.4 The **World Breastfeeding Week** was observed from 1-7 August 2003 on the global theme of '**Breastfeeding in a Globalized World for Peace and Justice**' by the CFNEUs in collaboration with the State units of Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) and the State Departments of WCD. Background material obtained from World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) was provided to all the CFNEUs. Necessary guidance was given to the field units for disseminating the mandate of the 54th World Health Assembly 2001 which advocated exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, introducing home based complementary foods thereafter with continued breastfeeding upto the age of two years and beyond, and 55th World Health Assembly 2002 giving guidelines on Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding.

5.5.5 The World Food Day (16th October) and the Global IDD Day (21st October) were also organized by all the CFNEUs during 2003.

Development, production and distribution of educational/training material

5.6.1 **Nutrition and Health Education Kit** developed jointly by FNB and NIPCCD was provided to all the ICDS projects, field units of FNB, State Governments, National Institutions, Home Science Colleges and reputed NGOs.

5.6.2 **National Guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding** were developed incorporating the mandates of the World Health

Assembly resolutions 54.2 and 55.25 and giving operational guidelines for disseminating the correct norms of infant and young child feeding to various organisations concerned with nutrition and health of children and women. The draft guidelines were provided to all the State Secretaries incharge of women and child development during the State Secretaries Conference held at Delhi on 15-16 October, 2003 requesting them to disseminate the guidelines through their field infrastructure. The guidelines are being printed in Hindi and English for wider dissemination.

5.6.3 Three **posters** titled 'Child's Health is Nation's Wealth', 'Infants Need Adequate Food for Good Health and Development'; and "Preparation of Infant Food Mixes at Home", and one **chart** on "Guidelines on Infant Feeding" were reprinted in Hindi, English and all the regional languages with a view to disseminate through various field agencies.

Mass Media Communication

5.7.1 **Three video spots** on 'Infant and Young Child Feeding', 'Preparation of Instant Foods for infants at home' and 'Nutrition of the Girl Child' were telecast on Doordarshan with effect from January 2004 alongwith the programme of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) titled 'Khel Khel Mein Badalo Duniya' on Sundays at 3.30 p.m. Three audio jingles (in Hindi) on (i) Importance of Colostrum, (ii) Nutrition of Adolescent Girls and (iii) Sound Infant Feeding Practices, were broadcast through All India Radio during Indo-Pak cricket matches during March 2004.

5.7.2 Some State Governments have utilized the video films on nutrition under the title 'Poshan Aur Rashtra Nirman' for education of the functionaries through satellite programmes as well as in training courses. These have also



been used for training of Self Help Women Groups (SHGs) under the “Swa-Shakti” scheme.

Development and Promotion of Nutritious Foods

5.8.1 Popularisation of low cost nutritious foods from locally available raw material is one of the mandates to the Board under the National Nutrition Policy. The field units of FNB have been developing low cost nutritious recipes from locally available foods keeping in view the requirements of infants and pre-school children, and propagating the same through training courses and nutrition education programmes. The preparation of ‘sattu’ like instant foods using locally available food grains and nuts/ oil seeds and other nutritious preparations for children standardized by CFNEUs have been adopted by some State Governments in their nutrition programmes.

Food Analysis and Standardization

5.9.1 The four Quality Control Laboratories (QCL) of FNB at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai continued to analyse processed Fruit and Vegetable Products as well as various

supplementary foods used in ICDS and Mid Day Meal scheme. The samples of the supplementary foods used in ICDS and Mid-day Meal Programme are received from the State Departments of Social Welfare and Women & Child Development for analysis. A total of 27,271 samples were analysed by the four QCLs during the year 2003-04 out of which 14845 samples were of the supplementary foods. The Government of Madhya Pradesh decided to procure supplementary food for ICDS from the Self Help Women Groups (SHWG) for the entire State. The quality control of the supplementary food samples provided by SHWGs was undertaken by the FNB laboratories at Mumbai and Delhi before involving the respective self help women groups for supply of supplementary foods under ICDS. The QCLs are increasingly being utilised for analysis of supplementary foods used in welfare feeding programmes of the Government.

5.9.2 FNB rendered technical advice on food quality and standardization to various committees of Department of Health, including Codex, BIS, etc. The Technical Adviser (FNB) represented the Department in the reconstituted Label Sub Committee of the Central Committee on Food Standards of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

5.9.3 The Department Heads the Shadow Committee for the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU). India’s viewpoints for the 25th session of the CCNFSDU held at Bonn (Germany) from 3-7 November 2003 were finalised in the two-shadow committee meetings held during October 2003. A Deputy



Technical Adviser of FNB participated in the 25th session of CCNFSDU.

5.9.4 India was represented by the FNB in the Electronic Working Group on Food Additives and Contaminants for Infant Formula and Cereal Based Foods for Infants and Children constituted by the 24th Session of CCNFSDU under the leadership of Switzerland.

Follow Up Action on National Nutrition Policy

5.10.1 One of the terms of reference of the **National Nutrition Mission** constituted under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister is to review the National Nutrition Policy (1993) and National Plan of Action on Nutrition (1995) with a view to facilitate setting nutrition goals for the next decade and effective policy direction and intersectoral collaboration. A **Working Group for Review of National Nutrition Policy and National Plan of Action on Nutrition** was constituted under the chairpersonship of the Secretary (WCD). A draft review document on National Nutrition Policy highlighting the mandate of the policy, achievements during the last one decade, constraints in fully operationalising the policy,

vision for the next decade and some macro and micro level strategies for achieving the national nutrition goals, was prepared for consideration by the Working Group. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on 17th February, 2004 under the chairpersonship of Secretary (WCD).

Nutrition Monitoring and Surveillance

5.11.1 Establishing nutrition monitoring and surveillance in the country has been the mandate of the National Nutrition Policy. Projects in 5 States namely Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh are being undertaken in close collaboration with NIN and the State Governments. State, divisional and district level workshops and training programmes have been completed in all the five States. Efforts are being made to institutionalize nutrition monitoring and surveillance in the MIS of ICDS with a view to universalize the same.

5.11.2 Three batches of FNB officers and staff were trained at the National Institute for Nutrition, Hyderabad during 2003-04 with a view to improve their capability and skills in nutrition monitoring and surveillance.

District Nutrition Profiles

5.12.1 The National Nutrition Policy recognized the need for disaggregated data on food and nutrition situation at least up to the district level to enable area specific planning and programming. The States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Orissa and West Bengal have been covered by the District Nutrition Profile studies and reports prepared during the year 2003-04 enlisting support of NIN, IRMS and CINI.





National Nutrition Mission

5.13.1 In pursuance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's announcement on Independence Day 2001, a pilot project to provide free food grains to the undernourished adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women was launched in 51 identified districts throughout the country in 2002-03 by the Planning Commission (**Annexure-XXIII**). This project is proposed to be continued as Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) during 2004-05 and 2005-06 with 100% funding by the Planning Commission.

5.13.2 A National Nutrition Mission has been set up and notified on 31-07-2003. It involves a two-tier structure with a National Nutrition Mission headed by the Prime Minister and an Executive Committee headed by the MOS incharge of the Department of Women and Child Development (**Annexure-XXIV**). The basic objective of the Mission is to address the problem of malnutrition in a holistic manner and to accelerate reduction in various forms of

malnutrition, particularly among women and children.

Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Act, 2003

5.14.1 The above Amendment notified on 02-06-2003 became necessary with a view to prevent the misuse of the existing act, the Infant Milk Substitute, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992, by the multinational companies which started promoting their infant foods from the third month onwards against the prescription of exclusive breast feeding of young infants in the age range of 4-6 months. The amendment extended the age for exclusive breast feeding from 4-6 months to 6 months and bringing infant foods at par with infant milk substitutes in so far as advertisement and other promotional campaigns are concerned (**Annexure-XXV**).

Chapter-6

National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development

Background

The National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) is a successor to the Central Institute of Research and Training in Public Cooperation which was sponsored by the Planning Commission and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 as an autonomous organisation on February 28, 1966. The Institute functions under the aegis of the Department of Women and Child Development with its Headquarters in New Delhi.

Objectives

6.2.1 The objectives of the Institute are to develop and promote voluntary action in social development; take a comprehensive view of child development and develop and promote programmes in pursuance of the National Policy for Children; develop measures for coordination of governmental and voluntary action in social development; and evolve framework and perspective for organising children's programmes through governmental and voluntary efforts.

6.2.2 With a view to achieving the above objectives, the Institute organises training programmes, seminars, workshops, conferences;

conducts research and evaluation studies; and provides documentation and information services in the field of public cooperation and child development. The Institute is the apex body for training of functionaries of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme. It provides technical advice and consultancy to government and voluntary agencies in promoting and implementing policies and programmes for child development and voluntary action. In addition, it collaborates with regional and international agencies, research institutions, universities and technical bodies.

Administrative Set-up

6.3.1 The General Body and the Executive Council are its two main constitutional bodies.





The General Body formulates policy for management and administration of the Institute. The Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development is President of the General Body and Chairman of the Executive Council. In addition, there are committees to oversee academic programmes and administrative matters.

Organisation

6.4.1 The Institute at its Headquarters at New Delhi functions through six Divisions, namely, Public Cooperation; Child Development; Women's Development; Training; Monitoring and Evaluation; and Common Services. The Divisions are grouped under two Departments, namely, the Department of Mother and Child Development and the Department of Training and Common Services.

6.4.2 Recognising that in a country of such vast dimensions, an Institute located in Delhi will not be able to cater to the field level regional requirements in terms of training, research, and consultancy, the Institute set up Regional Centres at Guwahati (1978), Bangalore (1980), Lucknow (1982) and Indore (2001).

Programmes and Activities

6.5.1 The programmes and activities of the Institute can be grouped into four broad categories as indicated below:

1. Regular programmes.
2. Programmes under Udisha Project.
3. Training programmes under Swa-shakti and Swayamsidha
4. Research/Evaluation studies and Other projects.

Regular Programmes

6.6.1 Under regular training programmes, the Institute organises orientation/training courses and workshops/seminars for representatives of voluntary organisations and officials of government departments engaged in implementation of programmes of mother care, child development and women's development. The Institute also conducts programmes on subjects of topical interest in these fields to highlight the role of voluntary organisations and government departments in tackling emerging social problems including problems having a bearing on welfare and development of children and strengthening the service delivery system. These programmes are aimed at creating consciousness in the community about the needs of the child and mother and help channelising it into concrete action.

6.6.2 The Institute has been consistently trying to maximise the outreach of its regular programmes for officials and non-officials engaged in the area of women and child development with the resources available with it. During 2003-2004, the Institute organised 95 programmes against the target of 35 programmes for the year. 4802 participants attended these programmes against the target of 875 participants for the year.

6.6.3 In the year 2003-2004, the Institute undertook following new areas of training

- Combating domestic violence
- Prevention of trafficking of women and children .Capacity building of voluntary organisations
- Role of voluntary organisations in development
- Integrating support services with family courts

- ❑ Learning and behavioural problems of children
- ❑ Health and nutrition of young child and women.
- ❑ Management of child care services
- ❑ Counselling for functionaries of child care institutions
- ❑ Development of adolescent girls

6.6.4 Some of the important activities of the Institute under the category of regular programmes were as under:-

Capacity Building of Voluntary Organisations

6.7.1 The Institute has been organising Workshops/Seminars with a view to promote partnership with voluntary organisations since 2001. During 2003-04 two State level seminars were organised at (i) Dehradun (Uttaranchal) and (ii) Ranchi (Jharkhand). While the Dehradun Seminar was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttaranchal Shri N. D. Tiwari, the Ranchi Seminar was inaugurated by Shri Chintu Nayak, Secretary, Department of Social Welfare, Government of Jharkhand.

6.7.2 District level orientation workshops were organised at Sawai Madhopur, Indore, Lucknow and Solapur with a view to create awareness among the participants about the schemes and programmes of the Government, aiming at the welfare and development of women and children.

6.7.3 As a follow-up to the district level orientation workshops, special training programmes were organised for selected representatives of Voluntary Organisations with a view to enhance their skills in project formulation, managerial aspects, and resource management.

6.7.4 The Institute also organised three important training programmes on Good Governance in Voluntary Organisations, Fund Raising and Resource Management and Planning and Designing Project proposals for the functionaries of voluntary organisations.

Sensitisation Workshop for State Government Officials on Schemes and Programmes of Government of India

6.8.1 A workshop was organised from 6-8 August 2003 with a view to sensitise State officials on the need to promote voluntary action in areas where they do not exist at present. For this they were given a full exposure to the schemes and projects scattered across different Ministries and Departments having an impact on the welfare and development of women and children.





Training Modules

6.9.1 The following training modules were developed during 2003-04:

- (i) Gender Training Module on Empowerment
- (ii) Counselling for Functionaries of Child Care Institutes
- (iii) Health and Nutrition of Young Children and Women
- (iv) Prevention of Trafficking of Women and Children
- (v) Holistic Development of Adolescent Girls
- (vi) Management of Child Care Services

Universal Children's Day

6.10.1 At the instance of Hon'ble Minister of State for Human Resource Development, four Regional Centres of the Institute located at Bangalore, Guwahati, Lucknow and Indore, in collaboration with Governments of those States/UTs coming under their jurisdiction celebrated Children's Day on 14 November 2003 in a unique manner. The opinions of children as well

as their expectations from parents, society and the Government were elicited in a participatory manner. This exercise was done on a 56 metre long Khadi cloth symbolising 56 years of independence of the country in each State/UT where such celebration took place. The cloth was kept at a place where State Governments were celebrating Children's Day in their respective Capitals. Children from all walks of life participated in the exercise. This activity was carried out simultaneously with other activities such as quiz, painting competitions, exhibition, book fairs etc. Faculty Members from all the Regional Centres also took part in the celebration by State Governments and provided overall guidance and supervision during the process of writing on the cloth by the children. The cloths on which children expressed their views are being collected from State Governments and Union Territories. A similar event was organised at Bal Bhavan, New Delhi on the occasion of Children's Day on 14 November 2003 wherein children from all over India (predominantly from Delhi) attending a Mega event organised by Bal Bhavan also expressed their views on parents, society and Government on a 56 metre long khadi cloth.

This event was witnessed by, among prominent dignitaries, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development and Smt. Jaskaur Meena, Hon'ble Minister of State for Human Resource Development.



6.10.2 The views expressed by children were analysed by Psychologists and compiled at regional and national levels to understand the pattern of views expressed by the children. A report on these events has been brought out.

Child Guidance and Counselling Services

6.11.1 In order to address issues relating to adolescent child development, the Institute has operationalised an Adolescent Guidance Services Centre at its headquarters in New Delhi. Similarly, child guidance and counselling facilities have been extended to the Regional Centres of the Institute located at Bangalore, Guwahati and Lucknow.

6.11.2 The Institute is in the process of finalising an Advance Diploma Course in Child Guidance and Counselling. In order to operationalise the details of the Diploma Programme a Workshop was held in New Delhi from 19-21 May 2003.

Programmes/Activities under UDISHA Training of ICDS functionaries

6.12.1 The responsibility for training of ICDS functionaries such as CDPOs and trainers of AWTCs and ML-TCs was restored to the Institute during 2003-04 revoking the earlier decision of decentralisation of this w.e.f. 1st July 2002. Six courses for CDPOs/ACDPOs were organised as a result of the above change in policy, which benefited 139 ICDS personnel. Similarly, 43 CDPOs received refresher training in two programmes organised by the NIPCCD Regional Centre, Guwahati. The Regional centre also organised a Job Training Course for Supervisors at the request of the State Governments of NE Region in which 37 Supervisors were trained.

6.12.2 The Institute during the year revised the syllabi for ICDS functionaries. A workshop was organised from 14-16 January 2004 to familiarise NIPCCD faculty spread across different Regional Centres about revised syllabi and the course contents. The Institute at its Headquarters also organised an Orientation

Training for trainers from the State Training Institutes of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

Regional Workshop on Training and Communication Material

6.13.1 A Regional Workshop on Training and Communication Materials was organised in collaboration with UNICEF India from 23-25 April 2003 at Pune, Maharashtra for the States of Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttranchal and Uttar Pradesh. The objectives of the workshop were to share State specific experiences of innovative ICDS training, communication process guidelines on quality improvement and standardise guidelines for formulating State specific key actions for quality improvement in ICDS training, communication process and materials. Forty-one State Officials and NGOs participated in the programme. The deliberations of the workshop were conducted in various Plenary Sessions and in Group Discussions to formulate recommendations. It was recommended that Inter-State sharing (at least once a year) of materials may be encouraged and Regional Resource Network may be established. As a follow up of the Workshop, an inventory of training material available with the States is under preparation.

Best Training Practices in ICDS Training

6.14.1 As a part of documentation, NIPCCD has initiated a project on "Best Training Practices" under which States have been requested to send the details of best training practices adopted in the ICDS training. Experiences received from six States (Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) are being documented.



Handbook for Anganwadi Workers

6.15.1 The Institute is in process of finalising the draft Handbook for Anganwadi Workers (AWWs). In order to pre-test its content a one-day workshop was organised at Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan on 13th September 2003. The Handbook is under revision incorporating the suggestions received during the workshop.

Training Programmes under other Projects (Swa-Shakti and Swayamsidha)

6.16.1 The Department of Women and Child Development has identified NIPCCD to act as a National Lead Training Agency for Rural Women's Development and Empowerment Project (now known as Swa-Shakti Project) which is currently being implemented in the States of Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and International Development Association (IDA). This involves carrying out of multifarious tasks related to the Project and also shouldering major responsibility in launching a countrywide programme called Swayamsidha.

6.16.2 Some of the important programmes organised under these projects during the year are mentioned below:

- (i) Review Meetings of State Nodal Officers Implementing Swayamsidha for Northern States
- (ii) Induction Course for Newly Recruited Officers of Swashakti Project
- (iii) Orientation Training for Nodal Officers and PIAs of North Eastern States under Swayamsidha
- (iv) Training Programmes on Child Care and Management

(v) Training Programmes for Swashakti Village Librarians and Members of Village Library Committee

(vi) Training Programme for Health and Nutrition Volunteers

6.16.3 A summary and list of training/orientation programmes organised by the Institute during 2003-2004 is at **Annexure-XXVI** and **XXVII** respectively.

Research/Evaluation Studies and Other Projects

6.17.1 During the year 2003-2004, the Institute completed the following research/evaluation studies and other projects:

- (i) An Evaluation Study of Creches Run under the National Creche Fund
- (ii) Pretesting of Mother and Child Protection Card
- (iii) Market Survey to Assess the Need for Specialised Training for Counsellors to Work in the Area of Child Mental Health
- (iv) A Quick Study of Assessment of Psychological Morbidity of School going Adolescents of Delhi
- (v) Theme Paper on Socio-Legal Aspects of the Functioning of Family Courts in India
- (vi) Child Labour in Hotels/Dhabas
- (vii) A Rapid Assessment of Convergence of DPEP with ICDS
- (viii) Micro level Study on Birth Weight and Neo-natal Deaths of Hospital Born Children in Hospitals of Guwahati City
- (ix) Concurrent Evaluation of STEP Projects
- (x) Prevention, Early Detection and Management of Mental Retardation among Children -A Pamphlet for Creating Awareness in Community.

- (xi) Survey of Counselling Services in Karnataka
- (xii) Concurrent Evaluation of Women's Dairy Projects being implemented under STEP Project
- (xiii) Appraisal of implementation of State Policy for Empowerment of Women

6.17.2 Some of the important on-going studies/projects approved by the Executive Council earlier and which are at different stages of progress during the year 2003-2004 are listed below:

- (i) Package of Parental Guidance Material
- (ii) Outreach and Utilization of Social Development Programmes in Tribal Blocks: An Appraisal
- (iii) A Study on Neglected Children in Institutions of Delhi.
- (iv) A Survey of the Working Women's Hostels in India.
- (v) Integrating Support Services with Family Courts - Action Research.
- (vi) Incidence of the Desertion of Married Women by NRIs.
- (vii) A Short Study on Colostrum Feeding Practices in Uttaranchal.
- (viii) A Study of Voluntary Efforts for Child Development in NE Regional Centre (ix) A Source Book for Voluntary Organisations.

Publications

6.18.1 Two publications on (i) Programmes of the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India and (ii) Schemes in Government of India for Development of Women and Children were brought out by the Institute on the occasion of

Children's Day falling on 14 November 2003. These publications were released by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development on 14 November 2003.

Library and Documentation

6.19.1 Documentation Centre for Women and Children (DCWC) continued to bring out DCWC News-clip on a monthly basis. 'Research Bulletin' with abstracts of research studies and 'Current Awareness Service' were also continued to be brought out on a quarterly basis. The Centre subscribes to 125 Journals/magazines and 25 newspapers. It has a collection of about 50,000 documents.

Promotion of Use of Hindi

6.20.1 In order to promote use of Hindi during 2003-2004 several measures were taken by the Institute. These included cash award scheme for officers for giving dictation in Hindi, scheme for incentive to stenographers/typists for doing their official work in Hindi, incentive scheme for original Hindi noting and drafting in official work, a cash award scheme for published research articles, a cash award scheme for organising at least a three day programme in Hindi; and a prize scheme for writing a book originally in Hindi; celebration of Hindi fortnight from 1 to 15 September 2003; convening of meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee at the Institute on regular basis and translation of important documents in Hindi. During the period under report, one officer was deputed for Hindi Probodh and Praveen under regular programmes of Hindi Teaching Scheme and he has passed the same. One stenographer was trained in Hindi Stenography and one Stenographer has been deputed for Hindi Stenography training under Hindi Teaching Scheme of Official Language Department.



Chapter-7

Central Social Welfare Board

The Central Social Welfare Board was set up by a Resolution of Government of India dated 12th August, 1953 with the object of promoting social welfare activities and implementing welfare programmes for women, children and the handicapped through voluntary organizations. Till 1969 the Board functioned as a limb of the Government and then it was registered as a charitable company under the Companies Act to give a legal status to the Board. The Board was given the dual responsibility of taking welfare services to the disadvantaged sections of society especially women & children, and also developing a nationwide infrastructure of voluntary agencies through which these services could be made available.

7.1.2 In 1954 the State Social Welfare Advisory Boards were set up in the States and Union Territories to implement the programmes of the Board and assist the Central Social Welfare Board in expansion and development of welfare services. The financial assistance to voluntary organisations under various schemes is given on the recommendations of the State Boards. Presently there are 32 State Boards (**Annexure-XXVIII**). The State Board of Jharkhand is to be set up shortly.

Organisational Structure

7.2.1 The Board is presently headed by Smt. Mridula Sinha as Chairperson. The Board has a 55-member General Body and a 15-member Executive Committee.



The composition of the General Body and Executive Committee are as follows-

General Body

- ❑ All Chairpersons of State Social Welfare Advisory Boards (32)
- ❑ Representatives from the Parliament: two from Lok Sabha & one from Rajya Sabha.
- ❑ Five Professionals (one each from Law, Medicine, Social Work, Education and Social Development)
- ❑ Three eminent persons with extensive experience in social work.
- ❑ Representatives from Ministries/Departments/Government of India – Department of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Finance, Department of Rural Development, Department of Education, Planning Commission, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Family Welfare.
- ❑ Executive Director, Central Social Welfare Board

Executive Committee

- ❑ Chairpersons of State Social Welfare Advisory Boards: 5 States by rotation
- ❑ Representatives from Ministries/Departments of the Government of India Department of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Finance, Department of Family Welfare, Department of Rural Development & Poverty Alleviation, Department of Education and Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- ❑ Two Professionals from General Body.
- ❑ Executive Director, Central Social Welfare Board

7.2.2 In keeping with its tradition, the Central Social Welfare Board is implementing important schemes for assistance for several kinds of activities through voluntary efforts for needy, destitute and disadvantaged women and children. There has been a shift in the emphasis from welfare to development and now to empowerment.

Organisational set up of CSWB





TAKING SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE GRASS ROOTS

Welfare Extension Projects

7.3.1 The Welfare Extension Projects, were started by the Board between 1954 and 1958, to extend services such as pre-primary school education, craft activities for women, maternity services and recreational facilities in rural areas. At present there are 41 projects with 315 centres functioning in 5 states covering 9900 beneficiaries. During the year 2003-04 an amount of Rs.299.96 lakhs was released to the State Boards for the implementation of these projects. Expenditure is shared by the CSWB and State Government in the ratio of 2:1.

Border Area Projects

7.3.2 Expenditure on the Border Area Projects is also shared by the CSWB and the State Government in the ratio of 2:1. This scheme was initiated following the Chinese aggression in 1962. Tension in the border areas necessitated the initiation and strengthening of welfare services in these areas with a view to promoting emotional and cultural integration of these areas with the rest of the country. At present there are 84 projects with 410 centres functioning in the remote border areas of the country in 14 states for which an amount of Rs. 989.00 lakhs was released to the State Boards during the year 2003-04 covering 16400 beneficiaries.

Demonstration Projects

7.3.3 The Demonstration Projects provide nutrition, health, education and recreational facilities for children. The expenditure in this programme is borne fully by the CSWB. During the year 2003-04, 11 projects in 11 States were functioning and a sum of Rs.212 lakhs was released covering 5780 beneficiaries.

Mahila Mandals

7.3.4 This programme came into existence as a result of a decision of CSWB in 1961 to hand over some of the Welfare Extension Project Centres to registered voluntary organisations. Out of the total expenditure on Mahila Mandals, 75% is borne by CSWB and the remaining 25% by the organisations themselves. During the year 2003-04 an amount of Rs.180.00 lakhs was released under Mahila Mandal Programme for 184 centres covering 48,535 beneficiaries.

SPREADING AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Awareness Generation Camps: Catalysts of Change

7.4.1 The programme of Awareness Generation Camps was introduced by the Central Social Welfare Board in the year 1986-87 with the objective of identifying the needs of rural and poor women and to increase women's awareness in developmental and other allied issues.

7.4.2 The camps take up issues such as the status of women, women and law, women and health, evils of female foeticide, community health and hygiene, technology for women,





amount of Rs. 499.94 lakhs was released. (Annexure-XXIX)

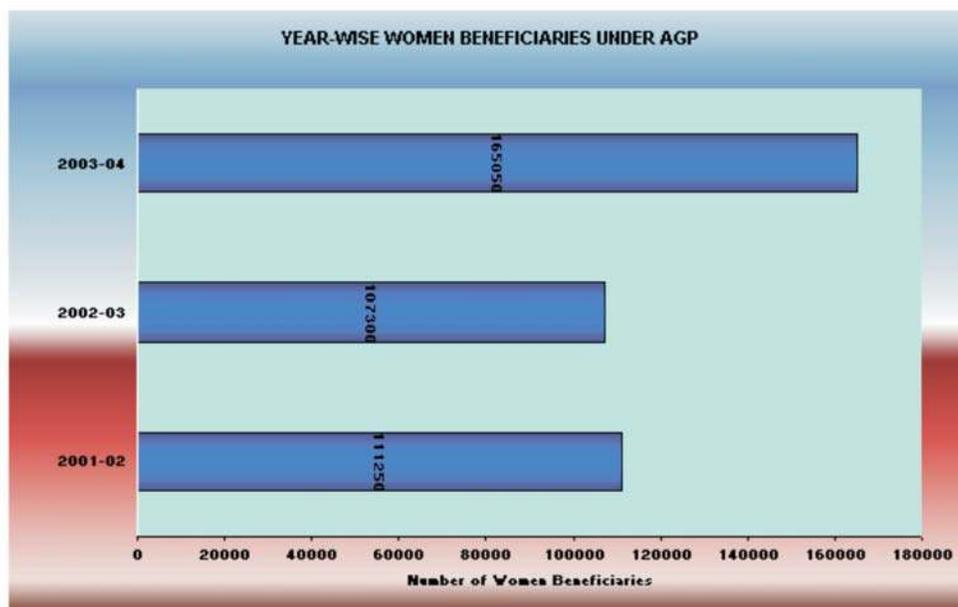
Condensed Courses of Education for Women: Second Chance for Schooling

7.5.1 The Scheme of Condensed Course of Education for women was started by the Central Social Welfare Board during the year 1958 with the objective of providing education as well as scope for employment to needy

environment and the economy. The programme also enables women to organise themselves and strengthen their participation in decision making in the family and in society and to deal with social issues including atrocities on women and children. Other issues which are specific to any area can also be taken up.

7.4.3 Under the programme of Awareness Generation Camps, voluntary organisations are provided a grant of Rs.10,000/- for 8 days camps plus two days follow up. During the year 2003-04, 6602 camps were sanctioned for which an

women, widows, destitutes and women belonging to economically backward classes. The main focus of the programme is to help women who have been denied access to school to avail of education at various levels. Under the Condensed Course Scheme grant is given to conduct courses of two years duration for passing primary/middle/matric examinations and one-year course for matric failed candidates of 15 years plus age group. The programme is partially decentralised. The sanctions are made by Central Social Welfare Board and funds are placed with the State Boards for onward transmission to the grantee institutions.





H. E. Hon. President of India meeting participants of National Workshop on condensed courses of Education.

7.5.2 During the year 2003-04, 392 courses were sanctioned involving an amount of Rs.398.65 lakhs and an amount of Rs.400.00 lakhs was released benefiting 10100 women candidates during the year. **(Annexure-XXX)**

HELPING WOMEN AND FAMILIES IN CRISIS

Family Counselling Centres–Strong Families, Strong Nation

7.6.1 The concept of family counselling was developed by the Central Social Welfare Board in the 1980s when there was a spate of dowry deaths. The Board spearheaded the campaign by setting up Voluntary Action Bureaus, which subsequently took the shape of Family Counselling Centres.

7.6.2 The objective of the Family Counselling Centres is to provide preventive and rehabilitative services to women and families who are victims of atrocities and family mal-adjustments through crisis intervention and systematic counselling.

7.6.3 Women's organisations and other voluntary social welfare organisations engaged in work relating to women's issues can avail grants from CSWB for setting up Family Counselling Centres (FCCs). The FCCs are expected to provide counselling, referral and if possible, rehabilitative services to women victims of atrocities in the family and society and also to those affected by family disputes and social problems.

7.6.4 As a part of this programme, eight training programmes and a National Workshop on professionalisation of FCCs was conducted. During the year, a total expenditure of Rs.588.90.62 lakhs has been incurred under FCC Programme. **(Annexure–XXXI)**

7.6.5 Family Counselling Centres have been set up for special interventions as illustrated below:-

FCCs at Police Headquarters

7.6.6 Family Counselling Centres are being run in some Police Headquarters premises under the administrative control of the State Boards. These FCCs were established with the objective of providing speedy crisis intervention to those women whose cases were registered in Police Stations. Such FCCs attempt to arrive at out of court settlement of family discord cases. 23 such FCCs are functioning in Police headquarters in the States of Delhi, Kerala, West Bengal, Orissa, Tripura, Pondicherry, Assam, Karnataka, Manipur, Goa, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Meghalaya, Nagaland, UP, MP, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu.

FCCs in Mahila Jails

7.6.7 FCCs have been set up in Mahila Jails in Delhi, Bangalore (Karnataka), Trichy and Vellore (TN) and Lucknow (UP).

Rape Crisis Intervention Centres

7.6.8 Three Rape Crisis Intervention Centres are functioning in Delhi and one in Mumbai. Rape crisis help lines are functional 24 hours at these centres.

Pre-marital Counselling Workshop/Centres

7.6.9 This new initiative of the Board is being implemented in the shape of ten FCCs running in Women Development Centres at the various colleges in Delhi. They lay special emphasis on pre-marital counselling and deal with other areas of psychosocial crises for young women. The Board is also conducting workshops on the subject through voluntary organisations and educational institutions.

Centres for Devdasis/Red Light Areas

7.6.10 At present there are three FCCs working for the welfare of Devdasis and sex workers and their children in Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Belgaum (Karnataka). The

centres have been set up with the objective of providing services through awareness campaigns on STD, AIDS and other health and legal matters and also rehabilitative measures for children and other dependents.

SHELTER TO WOMEN IN DISTRESS

Short Stay Homes

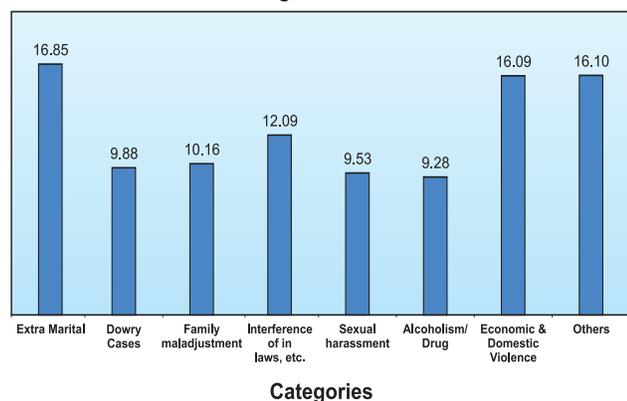
7.7.1 This programme has been taken up by the Central Social Welfare Board relatively recently. The Short Stay Homes provide a protective respite to women who are without shelter for a variety of reasons as illustrated below:-

- ❑ Those who are being forced into prostitution.
- ❑ Those who, as a result of family tension or discord, are made to leave their homes and have no means of subsistence and social protection or are facing litigation on account of marital disputes.
- ❑ Those who have been sexually assaulted and are facing the problem of re-adjustment in the family or society.
- ❑ Victims of mental mal-adjustment, emotional disturbances and social ostracism.

7.7.2 During the period of their stay in the SSH the women are provided shelter, medical care, counselling, vocational training, referral, rehabilitative and follow-up services. The Home can accommodate 30 women at a time and is usually located at a District or block headquarters or in towns with a population of not less than 50,000.

7.7.3 The scheme of Short Stay Home was launched by the Govt. of India in 1969 to provide temporary shelter to women and girls.

Percentage of cases under different categories - Family Counselling Centres - 2003-04





This programme was earlier being implemented by the Department of Women & Child Development and was handed over to Central Social Welfare Board for monitoring and implementation w.e.f. April 1999.



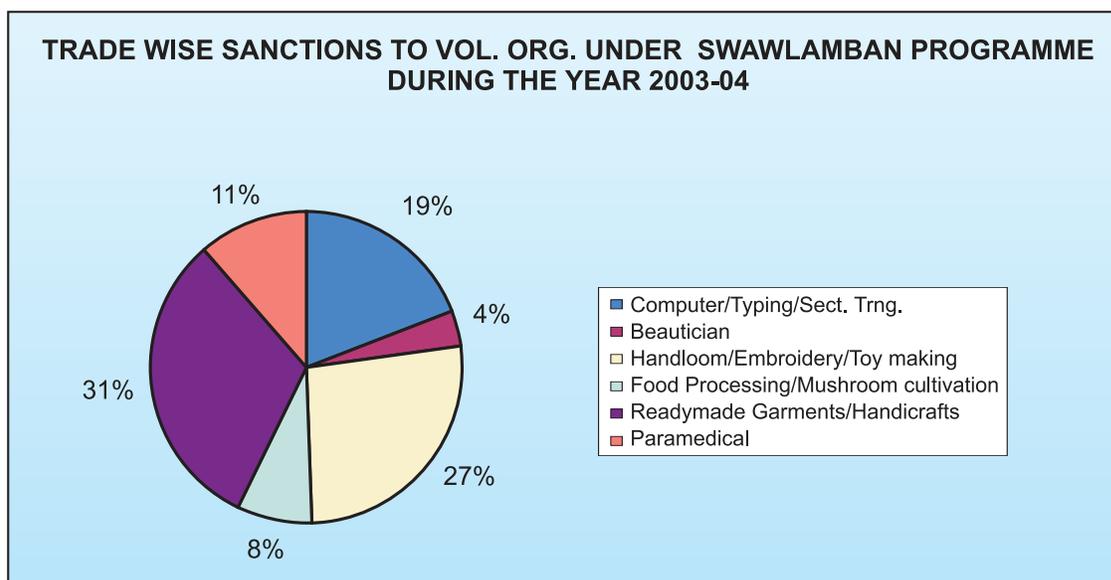
7.7.4 An amount of Rs. 1589.90 has been sanctioned and Rs. 1507.06 was released for 341 Short Stay Homes all over the country during the year 2003-04 (**Annexure-XXXII**)

EMPOWERING WOMEN

Swawlamban- (Vocational Training/NORAD)

7.8.1 The Central Social Welfare Board started the scheme of vocational training during 1975 to train women in the various trades, which are marketable and also to upgrade their skills in order to meet the demands of changing work environment. Main objective of vocational training programme is to enable and empower women to access remunerative employment opportunities. Presently the Board gets funds from the Deptt. under Swawlamban (NORAD) scheme. The Central Board receives proposals from States where Women Development Corporations/societies have not been set up. The applications of voluntary organisations are received by the respective State Boards and they are placed before the State Level Empowered Committees for onward submission to the Department for sanction of grant through Project Sanctioning Committee of the Department.

7.8.2 An amount of Rs. 300 lakhs has been allocated by the Department of Women & Child Development, Government of India for the year 2003-04. In addition to this an amount of Rs. 11.39 crores was also released to meet the expenditure of past liabilities for the year 2000-01 and 2001-02.



SUPPORT SERVICES

Creches for Children of Working and Ailing Mothers

7.9.1 This programme provides day care services to children of the age group of 0-5 years from lower income group families. This scheme has been formulated to ensure that such children are given proper care in the absence of their mothers. Under this scheme, financial assistance upto Rs. 18,480/- is provided as recurring grant to voluntary organisations for setting up a creche unit of 25 children. During the year 2003-04, an amount of Rs. 1709.96 lakhs has been released for a total of 9709 crèche units benefiting 2,42,725 children.

Working Women's Hostels: Home away from home

7.10.1 Under the Working Women's Hostel Scheme the Central Social Welfare Board provides maintenance grant to voluntary organisations for running Hostels for Working Women belonging to lower income

group. As per the scheme funds are provided for:-

- Salary of Matron.
- Salary of Chowkidar(Watchman).
- Recreational facilities.
- Difference between actual rent of hostel building and amount realized from inmates/ maintenance of Hostel building.

7.10.2 The Central Social Welfare Board provides assistance to organisations on the basis of class of cities such as A and B-1 cities Rs. 50,000/-, B2 cities Rs. 45,000/- and C & other cities Rs. 40,000/- upto maximum of 5 years only. No grant is given to those voluntary organizations who have already availed of Govt. grants to construct Hostel Building.

7.10.3 WWH programme is being run mainly in the following states - Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Tamilnadu & West Bengal. During the year 2003-04, an amount of Rs. 13.61 lakhs was released for 58 hostels.



Innovative Schemes: Programmes with a difference

7.11.1 Those areas and sectors, which have remained untouched by the existing schemes can be covered under this scheme. There are special groups like children of women in prostitution, rag pickers, children of leprosy patients, each of whom need special attention. Proposals for the problems of such marginalised groups in society can be given assistance under Innovative Schemes of the Board. Some of the significant proposals sanctioned are:-

7.11.2 A total of 20 Innovative projects were sanctioned in 6 States at a cost of Rs. 23.18 lakhs, some of the main projects sanctioned are as follows:-

Bhartiya Patita Udar Sabha

Project for children of sex workers at Allahabad and Varanasi

TISS (Tata Institute of Social Science) Mumbai

Prayas - a field project

Apnalaya, at Govandi, Mumbai

Integrated project for rag pickers

Indian Vision Foundation, New Delhi

Project for children and women who belong to families affected by Crime.

Surangama Kala Kendra, Muzaffarpur, Bihar

Vocational Training to Poor Women in folk art and traditions.

CAMPAIGN FOR MASS MOBILISATION

7.12.1 For the past few years the Central Social Welfare Board has been carrying on a campaign to mould public opinion with a view to bring about social change. The CSWB designated the Year 1999 as the **Samaj Kalyan**

Chetna Parv and the Year 2000 as the **Vikas Parv**. During these years a special calendar of activities was drawn up and the Central and State Boards implemented a wide array of programmes, rallies, meetings and other interventions in observance of the Parvs. The year 2001 was designated as Women's Empowerment Year by the Government of India. The Central Social Welfare Board observed this year as the **Women's Empowerment Parv**.

7.12.2 The Year **2002** was celebrated as **Pehchan Parv** by the Central Social Welfare Board. During this year, voluntary organisations that are doing exemplary work in the special fields of activity focussing on the programmes of the Board were given recognition. The State Boards have prepared directories of voluntary organisations, which give district-wise list of organisations and details of their activities. These were formally released in August '2003.

7.12.3 On March 8, 2003, the Central Social Welfare Board celebrated the International Women's Day by launching an awareness campaign on women's health under the slogan '**Healthy Women – Happy Family**' in association with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. A Women's Health Mela set up by the Delhi State Social Welfare Advisory Board in collaboration with several voluntary organisations was also inaugurated.

7.12.4 To combat the evil of female foeticide the Board launched **Manvi Sanrakshan Abhiyan** on 21st January 2004 when the first meeting was held. Hon. HRM. and all the Chairpersons of the State Boards, prominent social workers media personalities participated. Dr. L.M. Singhvi, learned Jurist and Member of Rajya Sabha also spoke on the occasion. A month-wise calendar of activities was drawn up.

FIELD COUNSELLING AND INSPECTION: EYES AND EARS OF THE BOARD

7.13.1 The Field Counselling and Inspection Division monitors the performance of the field officers posted in various State Boards in providing counselling and guidance to the institutions implementing the Board's programmes and promoting voluntarism in the districts allotted to them.

7.13.2 Training programmes are regularly held for the field officers to update their inspection skills, give orientation on monitoring of different programmes and impart skills on management of welfare services rendered by voluntary organisations.

7.13.3 As part of field work training, MSW students from Schools of Social Work from different parts of the country visit Central Social Welfare Board to get first hand information about the Board's programmes and their implementation.

STATE BOARD ADMINISTRATION

7.14.1 There are 32 State Boards in different States and UTs. They are headed by non-official Chairpersons who are mostly renowned social workers. The Boards consist of non-official members, normally representing each major district of the State and are proportionately nominated by the Central Board and State Govt.

7.14.2 The State Boards advise the Central Board to take new initiatives for the promotion of voluntarism and strengthening of voluntary action at the State level. The State Boards are also a recommendatory body for the evaluation of the voluntary organisations for taking up programmes of the Board.

7.14.3 The expenditure on the State Board Establishment Budget is met on 50:50 basis (i.e. 50% by CSWB and 50% by the concerning State Govt.). Under this head, an amount of Rs.460.00 lakhs has been released to State Boards during 2003-04 in instalments as Central Social Welfare Board's share.

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND STATISTICS: SETTING THE COURSE

7.15.1 Research, Evaluation and Statistics Division is responsible for functions related to monitoring and evaluation of various programmes, maintenance of data bank etc. During the year following activities were conducted:-

7.15.2 Monitoring of Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) continued during the year for the Annual Plan of Department of Women & Child Development.

7.15.3 Monitoring of Monthly Expenditure/ Quarterly Progress Report of all the State Social Welfare Boards.

7.15.4 Monitoring of Quarterly Performance Reviews of Programmes of Central Social Welfare Board; especially North Eastern Region.

7.15.5 Data collection and entry in the software for Geographical Information System installed by Department.

PUBLICITY AND PUBLICATIONS

Magazines of The Board – Social Welfare And Samaj Kalyan

7.16.1 The inaugural issue of 'Social Welfare' was released in April 1954. This was followed by the first issue of 'Samaj Kalyan' in Hindi in August 1955. The magazines are planned and



edited independently to cater to the needs of their individual readers. Both magazines have the most extensively documented material on the social problems in Indian society and they are referred to as resource material by students of social work.

7.16.2 During the year Social Welfare brought out issues on Violence Against Women, Human Rights, Women Entrepreneurs, Women in Difficult Circumstances, Child Abuse Gender Justice, Legal Literacy and several other issues. Samaj Kalyan published issues on Panchayati Raj, Adolescent Girls, Visually challenged persons, Gender Equality, Voluntarism and Media, Child Labour, Suicide, Child Marriage, AIDS and several other topics.

7.16.3 The Board has its own website where the latest information pertaining to programmes and activities is available. The website address is www.cswb.org.

IMPLEMENTATION OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

7.17.1 The use of Official Language Hindi has progressively increased in the Central Social Welfare Board. During the year, the meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee were held and progress reports were sent to the Ministry and concerned officers regularly. An incentive scheme for original Hindi Noting and Drafting in official work was implemented during the period under report.

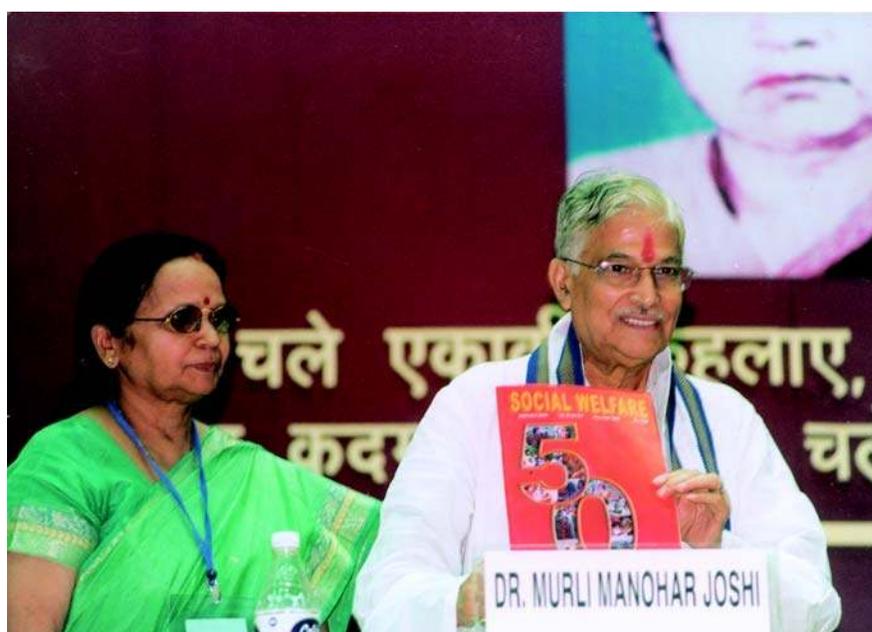
7.17.2 'Hindi Pakhwara' (Hindi fortnight) was

celebrated in the Board's office during which four competitions – Quiz, Essay, Hindi Typing & Debate were organised. A 'Hindi Workshop' was organised in Board's office in January, 2003 to give relevant information regarding targets pertaining to the official language implementation as well as Quarterly Hindi Progress Reports. Total 38 officers and employees participated in the workshop. Deputy Director of Regional Implementation office (Delhi), Deptt. of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs was also present.

7.17.3 The Committee of Parliament on Official Language also met on 10th Sept' 03 for review and inspection of the use of Hindi in the Board.

GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR OF THE BOARD

7.18.1 A week long celebration was organised in August 2003 beginning with a Press Conference and Exhibition, highlighting the Board's 50 years journey in the voluntary sector. A National Workshop on Condensed Courses



of Education was organised which was attended by implementing agencies, experts and beneficiaries. H.E. the President of India also addressed and guided the participants. A National Conference of Chairpersons, Members and Field Officers of State Boards was addressed by the Hon. Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Shri K.C. Pant. The valedictory function of the Golden Jubilee celebrations was held on 11th August 2003 in which Hon'ble Prime Minister was the chief guest and Hon. HRM and MOS/DWCD were guests of honour. On this occasion the fifth Dr. Durgabai Deshmukh Award was given to a voluntary organisation of Rajasthan viz. Mahila Mandal, Udaipur.

Dr. Durgabai Deshmukh Award

7.19.1 Since the year 1998 the CSWB has initiated an annual award in honour of the memory of its founder Chairperson Dr. Durgabai Deshmukh. It is conferred on a voluntary organisation which has done exemplary work for women. A Screening Committee does the selection by inviting proposals from State Govts. and State Boards. So far the voluntary organisation that have been recipients are: Step Women's Development Group, Pudukottai Distt. Tamilnadu (1998), Annapurna Mahila Mandal, Mumbai, Maharashtra (1999), Oju Welfare Association, Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh (2000), Sewa Bharati, Delhi (2001) and Mahila Mandal, Udaipur, Rajasthan (2002)





Chapter-8

National Commission for Women

The National Commission for Women (NCW) is a statutory body constituted under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 (No. 20 of 1990) on 31st January, 1992 with a view to protect, promote and safeguard the interests and rights of women.

Composition

The composition of the Commission during the period was:

- 1) Dr. Poornima Advani, Chairperson
- 2) Smt. Baby Rani Maurya, Member
- 3) Dr. Sudha Malaiya, Member
- 4) Smt. Nafisa Hussain, Member (up to 18.9.2003 and again nominated from 3.11.2003)
- 5) Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Member (from 3.11.2003)
- 6) Ms. Anusuiya Uike, Member (from 17.2.2004)
- 7) Smt. Sunila Basant, Member Secretary

Functions

8.2.1 The functions of the Commission as enumerated under Section 10 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 are as follows:

- 1) Investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws;

- 2) Present to the Central Government, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards;
- 3) Make in such reports recommendations for the effective implementation of those safeguards for improving the conditions of women by the Union or any State;
- 4) Review, from time to time, the existing provisions of the Constitution and other laws affecting women and recommend amendments thereto so as to suggest remedial legislative measures to meet any lacunae, inadequacies or shortcomings in such legislations;
- 5) Take up the cases of violation of the provisions of the Constitution and of other laws relating to women with the appropriate authorities;
- 6) Look into complaints and take *suo moto* notice of matters relating to:
 - a) Deprivation of women's rights;
 - b) Non-implementation of laws enacted to provide protection to women and also to achieve the objective of equality and development;
 - c) Non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships and ensuring welfare and providing relief to women, and take up the issues arising out of such matters with appropriate authorities;

- 7) Call for special studies or investigations into specific problems or situations arising out of discrimination and atrocities against women and identify the constraints so as to recommend strategies for their removal;
- 8) Undertake promotional and educational research so as to suggest ways of ensuring due representation of women in all spheres and identify factors responsible for impeding their advancement, such as lack of access to housing and basic services, inadequate support services and technologies for reducing drudgery and occupational health hazards and for increasing their productivity;
- 9) Participate and advise on the planning process of socio-economic development of women;
- 10) Evaluate the progress of the development of women under the Union and any State;
- 11) Inspect or cause to be inspected a jail, remand home, women's institution or other place of custody where women are kept as prisoners or otherwise, and take up with the concerned authorities for remedial action, if found necessary;
- 12) Fund litigation involving issues affecting a large body of women;
- 13) Make periodical reports to the Government on any matter pertaining to women and in particular various difficulties under which women toil; and
- 14) Any other matter which may be referred to it by Central Government.

The Central Government shall consult the Commission on all policy matters affecting women vide Section 16 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990)

Activities

8.3.1 The Complaints and Investigation Cell is the core unit of the Commission. It processes complaints received by the Commission orally, in writing or *suo moto* on the basis of newspaper reports under Section 10 of the NCW Act.

8.3.2 During the period April, 2003 to March, 2004 the Commission processed 5462 complaints relating to domestic violence, dowry, torture, rape, sexual harassment at work place etc, in the following manner:

- ❑ Specific cases of police apathy were taken up with senior police authorities for investigations and the progress of the investigation were monitored at periodic intervals;
- ❑ Family disputes were resolved through counselling ;
- ❑ For serious cases, Inquiry Committees were set up by the Commission, and their recommendations monitored for their implementation on a regular basis.

8.3.3 A list of cases where Inquiry Committees were set up during 2003-04 under Section 8 of the NCW Act, 1990 is at **Annexure-XXXIII**

8.3.4 The Recommendations of the Inquiry Committees covered disciplinary action against erring government personnel, payment of compensation, counselling of victims, action against management of hospitals, etc.

Meetings/Workshops/Consultations/Public Hearing

8.4.1 A meeting was convened with the Police Commissioner, Delhi, Secretary (Home), NCT of Delhi on 21.10.2003 to discuss



strategies to combat rising violence against women in Delhi. The recommendations arising out of the consultations were taken up with the concerned authorities for their implementation.

8.4.2 An All India Conference of Dowry Prohibition Officers were organized on 31st January, 2004 as a part of the Foundation Day Programmes.

8.4.3 A National Workshop on laws concerning crime against women was organized in association with the Bar Council of India on 1st February, 2004 which reviewed the following laws:

1. Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956
2. Provisions in IPC regarding Sexual Assault on Women
3. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
4. The Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994

8.4.4 A National Conference on gender sensitization of Sainik Boards was held on 3rd February, 2004 and a National Workshop on gender sensitization of Media was held on 5th and 6th February, 2004

8.4.5 A National Seminar on Sexual Harassment at Work Place was organized in New Delhi on 10.3.2004 to discuss the draft Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place (Prevention) Bill.

8.4.6 A National Consultation on Sex Tourism was held in Mumbai on 05.3.2004 to discuss the gravity of the problem and the steps needed to curtail it.

8.4.7 The provisions of WTO vis-a-vis gender concerns were discussed in a meeting of the Expert Committee on 2nd September, 2003.

8.4.8 The Commission held public hearings on the following issues during the year under Report:-

1. Impact of Globalisation, Mechanisation and Liberalisation on women workers in the informal sector;
2. Women Bamboo Workers in Malyatorr, Kerala;
3. Problems of Share Croppers and rope makers at Patna;
4. Crimes against women in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Orissa, Tamilnadu and Jharkhand ;
5. Problems of Muslim Women in Maharashtra and Rajasthan;
6. Problems of Beedi and Cigar Workers at Ahmedabad, Thirunalvela and Sagar;
7. Problems of Construction Workers at Jaipur, Delhi, Mumbai, Patna and Bangalore

8.4.9 In order to create awareness about the evils of child marriage, the Commission organized **Bal Vivah Virodh Abhiyan** in collaboration with State Commissions for Women and NGOs.

8.4.10 The Commission held several State level consultations to evolve an appropriate action plan for empowerment of women besides undertaking visits to States to evaluate the status of women in the States.

Studies sponsored by the NCW

8.5.1 The following studies were sponsored by the Commission during the year under report:

- Contribution of Women Political Elite: Implications for Women's Empowerment.
- Gender Budgeting.

- ❑ Marketable skills in the wake of Globalization: A study in the Indian Context.
- ❑ Impact of conflict on women in Nagaland and Tripura.
- ❑ Violence against Women: An Enquiry in Imphal, Churachandpur and Tamenglong Distt. of Manipur.
- ❑ Status of Women Scientists in Delhi: Identification of problems and their solutions.
- ❑ Survey of Disabled girls: Prevalence patterns in Maharashtra.
- ❑ Study on Development Induced Displacement in India: Impact on Women.
- ❑ Emerging status of women migrants from Bangladesh to West Bengal and Orissa during 1971-2001.
- ❑ Coparcenary rights/property rights of Women in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra
- ❑ Study on Violence against Women in the Private Domain: Reaction and Action of Law Enforcement Agency in Chennai.

- ❑ Study on “Women and Water”.
- ❑ Study on Girls Hostels in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❑ Women in Agriculture vis-à-vis WTO.
- ❑ Assessment of custodial institutions and Nari Niketans.

Publications

8.6.1 The following publications were brought out by the Commission during the year under report:-

1. Situational analysis of women in Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan
2. Working of Family Courts- Model Family Core Groups
3. Women in Governance
4. Report on War Widows
5. Life after Death – Journey into the lives of War Widows
6. Welfare of Muslim Women

8.6.2 In pursuance of the mandate to inspect jails, remand homes, women’s institutions and other places of custody where women are kept as prisoners, the NCW visited institutions as listed at **Annexure-XXXIV**.



Chapter-9

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh

The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) or the National Credit Fund for Women was set up as a Registered Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 sponsored by the Department of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India on 30th March, 1993. It was given a one time corpus fund of Rs.31.00 crore.

Objectives

9.1.2 The main objectives of RMK is to facilitate credit support or micro-finance to poor women to start income generating activities such as dairy, agriculture, shop-keeping, vending, handicrafts etc. RMK mainly channelises its support through non-government organizations/voluntary agencies; women's development corporations; cooperative societies; state government agencies like DRDA; SHGs formed under Swayamsiddha/Swa-Shakti and non-profit making companies registered under section 25 of Companies Act,1956.

Administrative set-up

9.1.3 The RMK is administered by a Governing Board of 16 Members consisting of senior officers of Central and State Governments, specialists and representatives of organisations active in the field of micro-credit to women.

9.1.4 For assisting eligible organizations, the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh is operating the

following loan Schemes:

(1) Main Loan Scheme

9.2.1 For availing loan under this Scheme the organization should satisfy the following eligibility criteria:-

1. The organisation applying for loan under this scheme should have broad based objectives, serving the social and economic needs of the poor women. It must not work for profit.
2. The organisation should have necessary professional competence, basic financial management capability and organisational skills to implement the lending programme.
3. The office bearers of the organisation should not be elected representatives of any political party.
4. The organisation should have proper system of maintaining accounts, which should be audited and published every year and there should not have been any serious irregularities.
5. The organisation should be registered for more than 3 years on the date of application to RMK.
6. The organisation should have experience in thrift and credit management for three years, or more.
7. The application should clearly reflect the source of funds utilised earlier for credit.

8. Recoveries for the loans given to its members earlier should be at least 90%.
9. There should be proper and specific clause/ provision in the Byelaws/ Memorandum of Association of the Organisation having power to borrow or raise loans from any outside agency
10. There should be appropriate reflection in the Organisation's audited accounts and balance sheet in respect of its experience in providing credit, recoveries etc. Audited accounts should reflect sound financial management / health and there should be no observation of a serious nature by the auditors.
11. There should be adequate infrastructure and staff to implement the micro credit programme.

(2) Loan Promotion Scheme

9.3.1 Eligibility criteria under the scheme will be same as under Main Loan Scheme (MLS) except that organizations with even six months of experience in micro credit are eligible to avail loans under the scheme. Loans are repayable within 36 months, at an interest rate of 8% per annum.

(3) Revolving Fund Scheme

9.4.1 In order to avail loan facility under this Scheme, the organization should have taken at least two loans under the Main Loan Scheme and repaid the first loan in full and in time. The organization should have at least five years of experience in the field of thrift and micro credit with not less than 50 stable SHGs under its aegis. Other eligibility criteria are the same as under Main Loan Scheme except that the limit for the loan amount could be up to Rs. 500 lakhs.

(4) Gold Credit Card Scheme

9.5.1 Loan under this Scheme enables an NGO (mostly large and medium) to revolve the amount taken from RMK among its members for a duration of three years, subject to the condition that they repay their interest on a quarterly basis in time. The performance of borrowers will be subject to annual review on the basis of a Gold Credit Pass Book issued for the purpose. Other eligibility criteria for the loan are the same as under the Main Loan Scheme.

(5) Franchise

9.6.1 This Scheme enables an NGO to avail a loan directly from a franchisee without approaching the RMK office in Delhi. NGO having availed itself of a minimum loan of Rs. 2.00 crores under micro credit scheme of RMK/SIDBI/NABARD/Commercial Banks/Other financial institutions are eligible for loan of above Rs. 1 crore under the Franchisee Scheme and NGOs having experience of up to Rs. 1 crore are eligible for a maximum of Rs. 1 crore loan under this scheme. Rate of interest charged on the loan to a franchisee is 5 per cent per annum subject to the maximum loan limit under this scheme is Rs. 500 lakhs. Other eligibility conditions are the same as under the Main Loan Scheme .

(6) Capacity Building Grant

9.7.1 This is an assistance extended by RMK to partnership organizations for development of infrastructure, such as purchase of computer package for software improvement etc. The organization should meet 25 per cent of the proposed cost from its own funds for which RMK will provide grant to the extent of 10% of the loan disbursed.



(7) Housing Loan

9.8.1 This scheme has been designed with a view to provide shelter to SHGs through partner NGOs of RMK. Loan up to Rs. 50,000 can be extended to a beneficiary for a duration of 60 months with an initial gestation period of

six months. While RMK charges eight per cent per annum to an NGO, the NGOs in turn extend the loan to the beneficiaries charging an interest up to 18% per annum.

9.8.2 A summary statement indicating the major loan scheme of the RMK is given below:-

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Ceiling limit (Amount in Rs.)	Duration of the loan	Interest charged PA on reducing balance
1.	Main Loan Scheme (MLS)	300 Lakhs (subject to a maximum of Rs 100 Lakhs for a state)	36 months	8 %
2.	Loan Promotion Scheme	5 Lakhs	36 months	8 %
3.	Revolving Fund Scheme	500 Lakhs	36 months	8 %
4.	Gold Credit Card	500 Lakhs	36 months	8 %
5.	Franchisee	500 Lakhs	36 months	5 %
6.	Capacity Building Grant	A grant upto a maximum of 10% of loan disbursed.	-----	-----

9.8.3 Details of State-wise break-ups in term of loan sanctioned and the no. of beneficiaries are presented at **Annexure XXXV and XXXVI**.

Chapter-10

A Few Smiles of Success

Child Guidance and Counselling Services

In order to address issues relating to adolescent child development, the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development has operationalised an Adolescent Guidance Services Centre at its headquarters in New Delhi, Bangalore, Guwahati and Lucknow.

CHILD GUIDANCE

The Story of Sumit- *A journey of self-discovery*

10.1.1 Sumit is today a young adult with great vision and dreams for his future. He is doing his graduation, working alongside (part time) editing a monthly magazine and wants to do his post graduation in Social Work or Mass Communication.

10.1.2 Sumit's journey to success was a long and arduous one, coming as he was from a lower socio-economic background. At 8 years when he was brought to the Child Guidance Centre of the Institute, Sumit was studying in a neighbourhood government school. His mother was unable to understand why her son who was studying in Class IV was not able to read and write on his own. His school copies were however, very neat and she had earlier seen him reading his textbooks also.

10.1.3 At the Child Guidance Centre, the child underwent complete bio-psycho-social assessment through a multidisciplinary team of

mental health professionals to understand the reasons for his problem. The assessment had revealed that though Sumit was in Class IV he had not acquired even the basic sound symbol relationship to be able to read and write in Hindi. In academic skills of reading, reading comprehension and spellings he was barely functioning at lower grade I level. His listening comprehension skills were however at Grade III level indicating that he was capable of understanding his lessons. Thus it was evident that Sumit had been coping in his school on the basis of his rote memory and copying skills.

10.1.4 The assessment of his cognitive abilities at the CGC revealed that his intelligence was average (IQ-102) and social adaptation grade appropriate. The social investigations revealed that Sumit's family was fraught with tensions and marital disharmony. He attended a small primary school with minimum facilities and without any consistent teaching-learning environment. Inadequate parenting and lack of supportive educational guidance at home compounded the problem. Cumulative deficits in basic academic skills were due to the socio-cultural factors.



10.1.5 Sumit underwent extensive interventions ranging for a period of two years at the Child Guidance Centre. Through the processes of parental counselling; individualized educational planning; involvement of family (siblings) in building the child's academic concepts, restructuring his school environment (change of school) and channelizing the child into constructive activities (painting and reading), the child's intrinsic potential was harnessed. His educational programming had to begin from learning of basics. However, within a year of intervention it was observed that Sumit's intrinsic motivation to learn had grown in leaps and bounds. Thus, his hard work coupled with reasonably better learning environment and an enabler (sister) at home, had started paying dividends. By the end of second year of intervention, he had developed the skills to cope with the demands of his grade. Thereafter, the journey of discovery into exploring his own talents and potentiality had no bounds. Sumit had awakened to his own abilities and worth.

Kajol-
Exploring new avenues towards growth

10.2.1 Kajol is a happily married young girl living in Bangalore. She has done a course in

tourism, is quite sociable and smart and keeps her house very well. If one would meet her today, one would never have believed that her parents had to struggle so hard for her education.

10.2.2 In her childhood, Kajol was studying in a leading school in Delhi. Her parents had tried their level best to help her pass her examinations. However, with each passing year their task became more difficult. When Kajol came to the Child Guidance Centre, she was studying in Class VII; and was still struggling. No matter how hard she tried, Maths was beyond her understanding. She could speak and read fluently in Hindi and English.

10.2.3 The assessments at the Child Guidance Centre revealed that Kajol's problems were stemming from **Borderline Intellectual Abilities (Slow learner)**. Her teachers further compounded her difficulties due to lack of understanding of her problem. Her parents were supportive but did not know how to extend their help. Consequently, the overexpectations that she had to face on all fronts had completely eroded her self-confidence. She would hardly speak and had difficulty in forming friends.

10.2.4 The team at the Child Guidance Centre, after the comprehensive assessment, worked with the parents and the child, over a period of one year to promote a 'fit' between the child and her environment. During the parental counselling sessions, parents were given an opportunity to express their concerns and vent out their feelings. At the same time, understanding the implications of borderline intelligence on the psycho-social adaptation of the child was promoted. They were helped to develop a clear vision for the child's future.

10.2.5 Thereafter began Kajol's journey to a hopeful future. Her school was changed to a less demanding school that had within its system an integrated set-up for slow learners. In this school Kajol was given the required space and pace for learning. Individual Psychoeducational intervention was undertaken wherein Kajol was given an opportunity to explore her talents in cooking and housekeeping to promote her self worth. She was also given opportunity for self-expression and ventilation of her feelings. In addition, inputs were given for developing study skills, note making and exam writing. Consequently, Kajol became more expressive, confident and happy. Eventually, she was able to pass Class XII through the open school. The open school system was flexible for her to be able to avoid subjects like Maths and Sciences that would have otherwise been too difficult for her (given her problem of poor reasoning and abstraction).

10.2.6 Thus, helping parents to plan the child's education in accordance to her potential helped Kajol to bloom into a happy young girl who could take up life's challenges and emerge victorious.

Siddharth-

A successful family endeavour

10.3.1 Siddharth is now a proud student of Class IX. Siddharth has been able to challenge

the severe difficulties in his early childhood to reach his present level.

10.3.2 The only child, Siddharth was brought to the Child Guidance Centre when he was 3 years old with complaints of severe tantrums, no speech and very stereotypic play. At the Centre, he was diagnosed as a child manifesting **Autism**. The road that Siddharth's parents travelled was a long one, maintaining contact with the professional at the CGC team at every critical juncture for a time span of almost 14 years. At every stage the intervention was different depending on the developmental needs of the child, but the parents were always a critical part of this endeavour. During early years, the parents were helped to understand and deal with his tantrums; stimulate and develop his language; and slowly extend his play and relatedness to age mates. The adaptation to the preschool, formal school and change in schools at different junctions were also a milestone at each stage, requiring considerable backstage preparation by the parents. At each stage with the help of the CGC professionals, Siddharth's parents would take up a critical role in promoting understanding about the child. While learning was promoted through one-to one teaching, using the child's dominant learning style, the school helped in socialization of the child. Siddharth was fortunately extremely bright in non-verbal reasoning with abstract analogies. This stood him in good stead to deal with subjects like arithmetics and science. On the other hand, his language skills and social behaviour had always to be worked upon.

10.3.3 Reflecting back it would not be an understatement to say that the entire credit for the success of Siddharth went to the painstaking effort of his parents and in their sincerity to put into action the intent of guidance at every stage.



WOMEN SELF HELP GROUP

Swayamsiddha

Swayamsiddha is an integrated project for the development and empowerment of women. It is based on the formation of women into Self Help Groups (SHGs) with emphasis on converging services, developing access to micro credit and promoting micro enterprises. The long term objective of the scheme is to achieve an all-round empowerment of women, especially socially and economically by ensuring their direct access to, and control over, resources through a sustained process of mobilization and convergence of all ongoing sectoral programmes.

Swa-Shakti Project

The project is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the State of Bihar, Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh and Uttranchal through Women Development Corporations/Societies. So far 17647 Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed under the project against the target of 16000.

Smt. Shanthamma- *The Journey to Success*

10.4.1 Smt. Shanthamma belongs to the Adi Karnataka caste. Married off at very young age, her husband left her for another woman, soon after their son was born. Struggling to make ends meet, in the absence of any support, she was unable even to send her little boy to school.

10.4.2 But she became a member of Sri Gangadevi Self Help Group of Peramakannahalli Village. With the help of the Sangha she was able to gradually save Rs.1,150/-. With pity on her pathetic condition, the Sangha gave her a loan of Rs.7,000/-. She bought for herself a hybrid cow and this provided her a means of improving her living condition.

10.4.3 She has already repaid Rs.2,000/- to the Sangha. Besides, as a result of the awareness

training received about Self Help Groups, today she has applied, through the Sangha, for a house from the government.

10.4.4 Slowly but surely, she is seeing the last of her difficult days.

Smt. Gowaramma- *Tea Stall*

10.5.1 Smt. Gowaramma, like almost everyone else in her village, lived in acute poverty. When her husband became physically handicapped, even day to day existence became extremely difficult.

10.5.2 Gowaramma, however, did not lose hope. She became a member of Sri Beeraeshwari Self Help Group of Reddeampalli Village.

10.5.3 There, Gowaramma received income generating training under the Adarsha Gram

Yogana at Sonnahallipura. Encouraged by this training, she strived to save Rs. 1,500/- with Sangha. She then obtained a loan of Rs.5,000/- and opened a small tea stall in the village. She is able to earn over Rs.3000/- per month and this has vastly improved her living conditions.

10.5.4 Today, in addition to coffee and tea, she serves snacks in her little hotel and hopes to improve her business further.

10.5.5 Gowamma who was at one time struggling to make ends meet, has developed into a self confident and enterprising person, setting an example for other underprivileged women.

Smt. Nagalakshmi, Mukkamma and Laxmi- *Detergent Makers*

10.6.1 A casual glance at Smt. Nagalakshmi, Smt. Mukkamma and Smt. Laxmi from Amarapura Village, and you'll take them for simple village folk, dependent on the soil they till for a living. But take a closer look and you'll see that glint of determination in their eyes. And that's what sets these three enterprising women apart from their underprivileged sisters.

10.6.2 They were among the first to recognize opportunity when it was presented to them by the Swashakti project. As members of the Swarna Self Help Group, they underwent a 5-day EDP skill training for manufacture of home products. Then, with a Rs.2000/- loan each, from the Group, they started a modest detergent powder manufacturing unit. Soon, their efforts met with slow but steady success.

10.6.3 Packaging the detergent in 500 gms and 1 kg packets, sold @ Rs. 10/- and Rs. 20/- respectively, 150 kgs. have already been marketed in the neighbouring villages with a net

profit of Rs.8/- per kilogram amounting to a total profit of Rs.1200/-.

10.6.4 Today, with business stepping up, these women have a viable option to their monsoon-dependent and uncertain occupation – farming. This has vastly enhanced their confidence and economic status. Ask them about it and you'll probably get quiet but glowing smiles...that say more than words ever can.

Sushilamma- *Fancy Footwear*

10.7.1 Susheelamma is a poor resident of Kalagi Village, who belongs to a family of cobblers. However, to augment her meager income, she also worked as a casual labourer.

10.7.2 When she became a member of the Gokula Self Help Group in her village, she began to make small savings with other members. Soon she was eligible to take a loan from the Group. With a loan of Rs.6000/- she improved her cobbler's business and invested in the manufacture of new types of footwear.

10.7.3 Business improved and she began making a profit of Rs.150/- every day.

10.7.4 "Now I don't have to suffer the agony of hard labour. I have my own family business."

—Susheelamma says happily.

Swa-Sahakti Section *Sweet Smelling Flowers Provide A Living*

10.8.1 The climate of Uttaranchal is perfect for the cultivation of flowers and there is a boom in floriculture here. The women in some nearby villages were inspired to see the value in cultivation of flowers when three women came forward and started this work. The first to take



a step in this direction was forty-eight year old Munni Devi and soon others were ready to follow her footsteps.

10.8.2 Rishikesh district is partly plain and partly hilly. Village Badal -Post is a middle sized village with good quality irrigated land. The villagers are well off here and farming, animal husbandry and vegetable production is their mainstay. Others are working as labourers; many youths also join the army. But the women of the village are illiterate and backward.

10.8.3 With the help of Swa-Shakti, the Bhuvneshri Swashakti group became the first SHG to come up in the area. In the beginning the women thought that the SHG was a body that would function like a loaning body only, and they did not participate in the other women empowerment programmes. But shortly, as women like Munni Devi started attending the meetings and learning and participating effectively, slow but sure changes began to take place among the women.

10.8.4 When discussions within the SHG revealed to the members the benefits of saving, inter- loaning and starting income generating activities there was heightened awareness and excitement in the SHG members. Smt. Munni Devi (48 years), Smt. Sushila Devi (33 years) and Smt. Sunita Devi (30 years) were the first ones to think of starting an income generating activity and Munni Devi started with floriculture. The uneducated Munni Devi who worked as a labourer in the fields was now learning to read and write and also working in a nursery and learning about the care of flowers. Munni Devi cast aside her doubts, fears and questions and turned to cultivating flowers. Swa Shakti gave her the confidence and the skill to grow and sell flowers. With the

assurance that Swa Shakti would help to sell her flowers, Munni Devi began her venture in April 2003 with a loan of Rs. 200/- to purchase flower seeds. With the first crop of flowers that appeared by July 2003 Munni Devi was able to sell saplings for Rs. 300/- to three other women of the village. They too began cultivating flowers and by September, 2003 all four women were selling flowers. What an extra-ordinary achievement. The four women produced 24 kilos of flowers per day and earned Rs. 80-100/- per day. Flowers grown by them are sold on the Ghats of Rishikesh everyday in cash. After paying off their costs each of the woman has a net income of Rs.1500-2000/- every month.

Courage in Adversity

10.5.1 Sometimes, life is so difficult that you are left wondering why fate dealt such a difficult blow to you. If there are insurmountable problems and difficult circumstances on the one hand, on the other there is the pressure of inability to find a way out of the mess that life has become. Often many people are simply stunned by all this but some fight to overcome their circumstances. The story of Smt. Kalavati Devi (age 35 years) is the story of one woman who fought alone to fulfil her own and the dreams of the family.



10.5.2 15 KMs away from Pithoragarh, on a tiny unpaved road, is the village of Balakot. Kalavati lives here in a small house along with her aged parents-in-law and four school going children. Her husband who worked in Delhi, has been missing for the last 5 years. There was no one to take over the responsibility of looking after this family. But Kalavati did not give up.

10.5.3 Kalavati was among the first woman to join the Swa Shakti Self Help Group in February, 2002 and slowly she became the strongest and most able member of the Group. With the support of the small savings that she made in the Self Help Group, Kalavati started sending her daughters to school. As she gained confidence she attended training courses in Almorah and as far as Pune in Maharashtra. She was strongly influenced by the National Life Insurance Schemes and she took them up very eagerly and even influenced other ladies to understand the advantages of insurance. Having understood the difficulties of managing a household without male support she was also the one who was most willing to help other women in similar circumstances. She first borrowed from the SHG and bought three buffaloes, one cow and a goat. With the help of her children, she was able to sell the extra milk that the animals produced to gain much needed income for the family. Kalavati did not stop there. She also began cultivating seasonal vegetables. She motivated the other members of Self Help Group to start plantation of medicinal plants and one by one all the women joined her and even obtained training in the cultivation of such plants. Now, Smt. Kalavati has obtained an inter-loan of Rs. 1,000/- and started cultivation of bay-leaf and Reetha. This Self Help Group was able to sell the produced in the commercial market and the women started earning money. They now pack the Reetha into small packets which are selling at the rate of Rs. 40/- per kg. in the market. This Self Help

Group has gained tremendous self confidence from this activity and they hold their meetings twice every month in which very careful record is kept of the money spent on production and the money earned after selling their produce. Kalavati has even motivated her group to sell their packets of Reetha in Pithoragarh District. Now, the Self Help Group has been able to save more money and is seriously thinking of going into production of small items like combs, bindi, ribbon and bangles etc. A very lively and learned discussion takes place in this Self Help Group about starting this joint venture. Smt. Kalavati is the vision and the strength behind this Self Help Group. It is her persuasion that has ensured that the Reetha Powder and bay-leaf business has done so well. When you meet Kalavati you are surprised to see that she has no fears about life ahead, and even though she misses her husband, she is sure that she can take on the responsibility of educating and marrying her four daughters. The story of women like Kalavati Devi inspires other women to join the Self Help Group and improve their own lives.

From suicide to literacy

10.6.1 This is a strange story from the District of Betul (MP). In the village of Amdhana an adivasi woman, Narmadi Bai, was one day given Rs. 1,000/- by her husband and told to go to the nearby Haat Bazaar to buy provisions. Narmadi Bai an uneducated woman had never done such a task before. To add to her misery, she could not differentiate between Rs. 100/- note and a rupee 500/- note and she mistakenly gave Rs. 500/- note to the shopkeeper thinking it was a rupee 100/- note. When she came home and the mistake was discovered, Narmadi Bai was severely beaten by her husband and in-laws. Unable to bear the agony and the shame of having caused such a huge financial loss to her family, Narmadi Bai ate Sulfa tablets and tried to end her life. She was saved by an alert ANM.



10.6.2 Even after she recovered her strength, Narmadi Bai continued to reel under the shame of the mistake committed only because she was illiterate. It is then that the Self Help Group of the area came to her rescue. They not only taught Narmadi Bai to read and write her own name and recognise numbers up to 50, they also supported her with words of confidence. Slowly, Narmadi Bai again became her normal self, and what is most wonderful is that Narmadi Bai became an active member of the SHG and spent her time urging the girls of her village to go to school and educate themselves. She herself began to take evening classes for other illiterate women. Thus the support and encouragement of a Self Help Group saved Narmadi Bai's life and gave her reason to live.

Women fight for development

10.7.1 In a tiny village tucked away in remote Kankunda in District Devas of Madhya Pradesh

there unfolds a very unusual story of women not only speaking up for their rights but also writing letters to government bodies and ensuring that their demands were met.

10.7.2 "Sir, this is one plea that there is no water tank in our village. If you are willing to build a water tank in our village we are ready to provide free labour."

10.7.3 What a magnificent letter! The women of this village became so empowered that they learned the ropes of government offices and spoke up for their rights. Durga Shakti, Jhansi Ki Rani, Saraswati, Gayatri and Chamunda SHGs got together and pooled their resources, both financial and physical. They vowed to do 'Shramdaan' and got a water tank built in their village. That is how the women of these SHGs became self reliant and empowered.



Swadhar

This scheme was launched by the Department during the year 2001-2002 as a central sector scheme for providing the holistic and integrated services to women in difficult circumstances, such as destitute widows deserted by their families in religious places like Vrindavan and Kashi; women prisoners released from jail and without family support; women survivors of natural disasters who have been rendered homeless and are without any social and economic support; trafficked women/girls rescued or runaway from brothels or other places or victims of sexual crimes, who are disowned by family or who do not want to go back to their respective family for various reasons; women victims of terrorist violence who are without any family support; mentally challenged women who are without any support of family or relatives, etc.

Swadhar Shelter Home at Lunawada. Panchamahar District. Gujarat- *Guild of service-a home away from home*

10.8.1 The organisation Guild of Service decided to set up a shelter home for rehabilitation of widows who were victims of riots in Gujarat. Each victim had a heart wrenching tale of her own and they had lost all faith in justice. The Guild of Service was deeply moved by the condition of the 42 widows who had seen the brutal carnage of communal riots. With great difficulty the Guild of Service set up a relief and rehabilitation centre called Apna

Ghar in a school building owned by Muslim Education Society. Every single person in the district of Panchamahar regardless of official status, caste, creed, religion and language helped the organisation in its endeavour. The women have regained their self-confidence and are being given vocational training. And their children are being educated by the Guild of Service. Every day a new success story is born in the rehabilitation centre when a woman becomes self reliant and walks with her head held high.

Under the Banyan

10.9.1 The Banyan is a non-profit, non-government organization in Chennai that works in the rescue, care and rehabilitation of mentally ill homeless women. Over 1,200 women, rendered destitute in the course of their battle against mental illness, and found wandering the streets of Chennai, have sheltered at Banyan's residential care and transit home, since 1993. Of these, more than 600 women have been re-united with their families after a spell of





sustained care and treatment. The Banyan currently cares for over 370 such women. The Banyan completed a decade of existence in 2003, ten years marked by fairytale reunions, stories of hope featuring women for whom all hope was seemingly lost.

The Banyan Impact

- ❑ Runs a 24/7 hotline, free crisis intervention shelter and rehabilitation centre that currently houses over 370 women.
- ❑ Has reached out to over 1200 women over ten years, rehabilitated more than 600. Provides lifelong medical support and follow-up to close to 400 rehabilitated women. Runs a free weekly outpatient clinic open to all that gets 1000 client visits, annually. Runs a free weekly community clinic in a Chennai neighborhood with three other partners.
- ❑ Provides free legal aid services-courtesy the Tamil Nadu judiciary. Close to 40 women have benefited in a year.
- ❑ Manages outreach and sensitization programmes. Lobbies for the rights of the mentally ill.
- ❑ Attempts to influence mental health policy.

10.9.2 For the first time the Banyan received aid from the Central Government through the Swadhar scheme in 2002-03. Swadhar supports close to 20% of the organisation’s needs, contributing towards medical expenses, food, staff salaries, and other expenditure.

Admissions and rehabilitations from April 2003 - March 2004.		
Month	Admissions	Rehabilitations
April 2003	40	28
May 2003	40	32
June 2003	34	11
July 2003	35	25
August 2003	38	16
September 2003	29	21
October 2003	41	12
November	31	19
December 2003	45	27
January 2004	28	18
February 2004	37	13
March 2004	35	33



Rashtriya Mahila Kosh

The main objectives of RMK is to facilitate credit support or micro-finance to poor women to start income generating activities such as dairy, agriculture, shop-keeping, vending, handicrafts etc. RMK mainly channelises its support through non-government organizations/voluntary agencies; Women's Development Corporations; cooperative societies; state government agencies like DRDA; SHGs formed under Swayamsidha/Swa-Shakti and non-profit making companies registered under section 25 of Companies Act, 1956.

Budding Entrepreneurs- Successful Story of Indcare's Saga of Transformation of Housewives to Women Micro Entrepreneurs.

10.10.1 Zeenat is a 45 years old physically challenged woman living in Vikas Nagar resettlement colony having 3 daughters and 2 sons. Leading a comfortable life with her children was something just not possible with the small amount of earning her husband would get at the end of the month. She knew the skill of preparing Ayurveda medicine but how she could use it was a big challenge in front of her as she had no legs. Whom could she approach with her skill? It was then when she became a



member of Mahila Chetna. She is associated with INDCARE's Self Help Group for the last 4 years. INDCARE promoted her skills empowering her by transforming the housewife into women entrepreneur as per her needs. She took the first loan of Rs. 5000 in the year of 2001 from her group to start business of manufacturing the Ayurveda Medicine. She started business successfully and repaid the loan amount and started saving handsomely. In March, 2003, for business expansion, she applied for another loan. Seeing the success of her business, INDCARE, a Non Governmental Organisation financed by Rashtriya Mahila Kosh sanctioned a loan of Rs. 10,000 for the same, thus has transformed a physically

challenged woman into a successful entrepreneur. Now she is able to devote her energy towards her Ayurveda Medicine shop and looking after the family as well as children's education.

Running a saree shop- Group Effort

10.11.1 Very little did the five members of Vennala Mahila Mandali of Kanigiri Mandai, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh know that their joint efforts in running the saree shop would soon be cited as an



example to other Self Help Groups in the District by all NGOs and Government officials.

10.11.2 The group members were initially selling sarees individually by going from door to door. Though the members worked very hard they could not get much profit as they had to purchase sarees in cash and sell the same at times on credit. The funds were blocked and interest burden on the loan went on increasing day by day. It was at this juncture that the group members thought of setting up a shop by contributing Rs 15000/- each. The Self Help Group financed the members out of the loan availed from a partner NGO of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh.

10.11.3 Opening of a shop helped them in obtaining sarees on credit and at a much cheaper rate. Their margin on sale went up and at the same time they were relieved of the hard labour of moving from house to house-selling sarees. The customers too were very much satisfied. The group is now in a much better position to make quality sarees available to the customers with a wide range of prints and designs. The members maintain the accounts themselves and run the shop themselves.

10.11.4 Unity and collective wisdom of the members has yielded good dividends and getting finance is now not a problem as wholesalers are ready to provide stock on credit. The members have repaid their loan availed from the Self Help Group and encourage more and more members to set up group activities. The coming together of the members and running the shop successfully has encouraged other SHGs also to undertake similar activities else where in the nearby villages. The smile of

success and the pride of being successful entrepreneurs is clearly visible on the faces of these ladies.

G. Hari Priya- *Aims to establish her own Departmental Stores*

10.12.1 Ms. G. Hari Priya an energetic lady from Satyanarayanapuram village Tirupati in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh had no work and no means of income to support her family.



She always used to worry about the future of her family. Husband's salary, who used to work through out the day, in the hot sun, as a labourer was barely sufficient to keep the family alive. Her three children could not go to school because of abject poverty. It was at this stage that Ms. Priya came to know about the "G. SULOCHANA" Self Help Group operating in the village. Initially, not fully aware of the benefits of joining a Self Help Group, Ms. Priya was reluctant to join the group. As time passed

by she understood the advantages of working in a group and learnt the need for savings. Being full of thoughts she approached RASS an NGO financed by Rashtriya Mahila Kosh for guidance to set up some small business. Looking to her courage and the ability to manage things she was advised to open a public telephone booth for which the SHG advanced the required amount. Ms. Priya being a young, energetic and committed lady strived hard and the venture was a great success. Not contented with her success, she started selling grocery items in the shop and slowly diversified into grocery business as well. Ms. Priya's exemplary success during a short span of 4-5 years has encouraged others also to venture into similar business in the village. A proud Priya is now capable of supporting her family and extending a helping hand to her husband. Priya has herself started to learn reading and writing to manage the record of day-to-day sales in the shop. Ms Priya's husband who was a labourer has now taken up selling grocery items in the village. The shift in the occupation of Priya's husband has increased the income to the family and given relief to Priya's husband from undertaking strenuous work in the sun. A successful Priya does not get tired narrating and acknowledging the help her Self Help Group has extended to her. A successful member of a successfully run Self Help Group

which has enhanced the social status of Ms. Priya has established her identity in the village.

Uma Devi- *Life transformed by SHG Membership*

10.13.1 Smt Karri Uma Devi is a fruit vendor residing at Nandirajuthota Bapatla Mandai Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh State. Born and brought up in abject poverty life was a burden on her. Her husband who was a field labourer had no work for days together and during the summer season the entire family used to migrate to nearby towns in search of employment. The family somehow managed to make both ends meet. Smt Karri Umadevi struggling to contribute to the family income used to borrow money from the village moneylender and undertake fruit vending, carrying fruits on her head and selling the same from village to village. It was at this juncture that she came to know about a Self Help Group, Chaitany Mahila Mandali functioning in the village.

10.13.2 The group members welcomed Umadevi into their fold and assured her of all possible help. Very soon she was very popular in the group and she was given a loan out of money received from a partner NGO of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh. The rate of interest on the loan was far less as compared to the interest she used to pay to the village moneylender. Umadevi brought a handcart out of the loan and started her business of fruit vending on the cart. Selling the fruits at prime locations like temples and hospitals added to the sale and thus her income increased many times. Now Smt Umadevi earns Rs 125/- to Rs 150/- a day. Children go to





school and husband also regards Smt Umadevi as the savior of his family.

10.13.3 A hard working lady Umadevi now intends to set up a shop of her own. She has now gained considerable experience in the business and is a confident lady. Umadevi now assists other ladies to set up their own small business ventures. Her message to the other ladies of the village is loud and clear. Unity is strength. Smt Umadevi has now become a popular name amongst the villagers as she is ready to explain to others the benefits of coming together into a group.

10.13.4 Smt Umadevi is proud to be a member of an active Self Help Group which she intends to continue as long as she is alive.

Tears of Joy-

A success story of Ms S.K Fathima

10.14.1 Ms. Fatima, residing in Kanaigiri Mandai of Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh is 43 years old lady with tears of joy in her eyes. She recalls her old days when she was a field labourer and used to lead a miserable life. She



was the only bread earner of her family. Her husband is mentally disabled and she has four children. She had also the responsibility of taking care of her old and ailing mother and father-in-law. When every thing was bleak and dark in her life she gathered courage and started a small business by availing a loan of Rs 2000/- for a grinding machine from a moneylender. The exorbitant rate of interest forced her to repay the loan immediately by closing down the business. It was at that juncture she came to know about Bhagyalakshmi Self Help Group promoted by an NGO -VSBK in her own village.

10.14.2 Ms. Fatima joined the Self Help Group and the group extended her a loan of Rs 5000/- assistance received by them from the NGO which had in turn availed loan from Rashtriya Mahila Kosh. Ms Fatima bought a small grinder out of the money and worked very hard day and night. She went from house to house for collecting the orders. Back home, her small children also assisted her in the work and the hard work put in by Ms Fatima yielded good results. In a very short time she was able to repay the loan to the Self Help Group. Encouraged by her success with the grinding work she again approached the Group for a bigger loan of Rs 10,000/- for purchase of a flourmill. The mill brought her new business and now with the grinding machine and the flourmill she earns Rs 100 to Rs 150 a day. The increased income has brought smiles on the face of every member of her family. She feels proud of being able to support her family in time of need and has all praise for the Self Help Group and Rashtriya Mahila Kosh.

B. Jagadeeswari- A Successful Entrepreneur

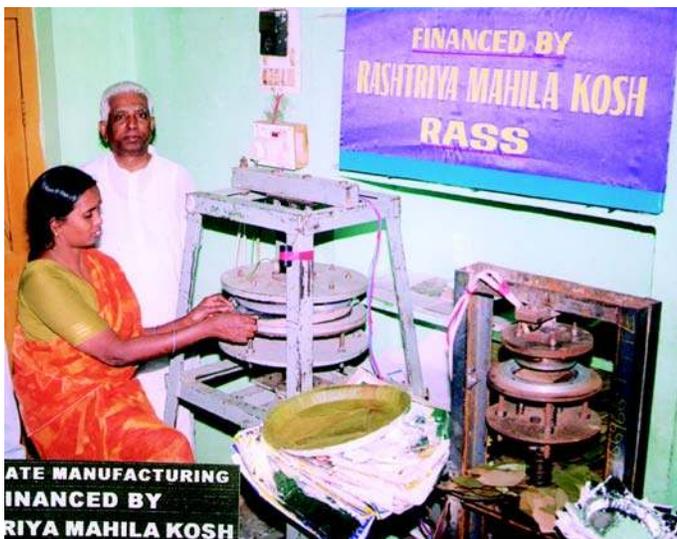
10.15.1 B. Jagadeeswari resides at 4.4.1020 B Nehru Nagar, Tirupati of Chittoor District in Andhra Pradesh State. She was spending her life in abject poverty with two children and her unemployed husband to support, with only a meager income of Rs 1000/- per month. It was difficult for Ms. Jagadeeswari to make both ends meet and send her children to school. Shortage of money in running the family often resulted in frequent quarrels with her husband and the neglected children. It was at this stage that Ms Jagadeeswari under the active leadership and advise of Rashtriya Seva Samiti joined Srinewasa Sangam a self help group in her own village. The field level worker of RASS who frequently visited the Self Help Group consoled Ms. Jagadeeswari and advised her to start a small venture of her own by availing a loan from the group. It was with the moral and financial support from the SHG that Ms. Jagadeeswari started a leaf plate-making business. Initially, Ms. Jagadeeswari worried about the production process and the marketing of the plates. Slowly she learnt the art of making the plates and developed contacts for selling of the plates prepared by her. Her devotion to work and

commitment to develop the business helped her maintain very good quality of the plates manufactured by her. Hotel owners in the locality started approaching her and placed bulk orders. A changed woman Ms Jagadeeswari is now full of confidence and teaches other women the art of making leaf plates. As luck had in store for her now a proud Ms Jagadeeswari earns Rs 6000/- P.M. Children go to school regularly and husband who often used to quarrel now looks at her with love and respect. Thanks to the timely guidance of RASS a partner NGO of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh and the assistance of the Self Help Group Ms Jagadeeswari is able to stand on her own feet and run the family as well as her business successfully.

Success story of Smt. Uma Devi

10.16.1 Smt. Uma Devi, a resident of Brundavan colony, Saroor Nagar, Hyderabad is 40 years old lady running a vegetable shop. Smt. Uma Devi has two children and a husband who was a daily labourer till 1999. The income of the husband as a wage laborer was hardly sufficient to run the family. Frustrated on account of the poor economic condition, Smt Uma Devi contacted the women in the area and came to know about the “Raghavendra Mahila Podupu Sangam”. Smt Uma Devi took membership of the Self Help Group and took a small loan of Rs 3000/-. She started selling vegetables in the near by villages and made some small profit. She promptly repaid the loan to the SHG and then availed another loan of Rs 7000/-. Slowly, she developed her business and ultimately she took a loan of Rs 15000/- from the Sangam.

10.16.2 Smt Uma Devi instead of moving from village to village and selling vegetables established her own bunk and sells vegetables at a market place. Her earnings from the bunk have encouraged her to finance a small pan





shop for her husband. Now Smt Uma Devi and her husband both are in business and earn Rs 125/- to Rs 150/- per day.

10.16.3 Children who were school dropouts have again started going to school and the standard of living of the entire family has gone up. Smt Uma Devi is proud to be able to support her husband and family in times of financial crisis. Her association with the self-help group has not only improved her financial position but has also made her a confident lady. She can freely interact with the various officials visiting the group and put forth the problems of her entire group. She has all praise for the self-help group and the timely assistance she has received from the group. She acknowledges the assistance of the group and has all praise for the friendly group members and the supporting NGO partner of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh. The success of Smt Uma Devi is an example to the other group members who intend to come out of poverty and help their family financially.

Smt Subba Lakshmi- A success story

10.17.1 Smt Subba Lakshmi is a 48 years old lady living in Kanigiri Mandal of Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh. She has four children. Her husband is illiterate and she herself had schooling up to VI standard.

10.17.2 Lack of any skill and illiteracy were the greatest hurdles for her husband in finding any gainful employment. Husband used to work as a field laborer and with the growing age coupled with malnutrition made him physically unfit for the hard work. Left with no other alternative, Lakshmi approached a Self Help Group operating in the area under the guidance of NGO namely, VSBK. The SHG members advised her to take up some income generating



activity and also granted her loan of Rs 3500/-. Smt Subba Lakshmi opened a small tea stall, initially. The hard labour put in by her started yielding fruits and the tea stall was a great success. Smt Lakshmi daily earned Rs 40 to Rs 50 out of the sales of the tea stall. This meager earning was however not sufficient to pull on the family especially in a situation when husband had no employment. She planned to expand her business and started serving meals to the nearby residents. The dedication and commitment of Smt Lakshmi earned her good name and her business became a great success.

10.17.3 Now Smt Lakshmi has about 100 customers visiting her house for meals every day. Her hard work coupled with the financial assistance of the SHG has bailed out her family out of financial crises. Smt Lakshmi is proud to proclaim that one of his sons is an MBA and the other one is M.Sc. Husband too is full of praise for Smt Lakshmi. He recalls with proud the support he has received from Lakshmi and that too at a time when no body came forward to help him. Lakshmi attributes her success to the encouragement, assistance and guidance received from the Self Help Group. Smt Lakshmi is now the leader of the SHG. Lakshmi's aim is to provide economic independence to all the members of the SHG.

SWAWLAMBAN

Swawlamban Scheme

Swawlamban Programme, previously known as NORAD/Women's Economic Programme, was launched in 1982-1983 with assistance from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). The objective of the programme is to provide training and skills to women to facilitate them to either obtain employment or become self-employed on a sustainable basis.

Self realization nurturing of latest talent through skill impenling-A few experiences from Andhra Pradesh- M. Saroja, Nalgonda Distt. Trade-Block printing and Tie & Dye

10.18.1 Saroja belongs to lower economic strata and was in much need of some additional income to survive. She learnt about the training programme in Block Printing & Tie and Dye under Swawlamban(NORAD) Scheme going to be organized in the nearby Pranganam. Despite the lack of any substantial educational qualifications, she acquired training skills in the said trade. Thereafter, she started her own work and is now earning approximately Rs.1000/- per month. This has given her the confidence and the economic freedom which has added a new dimension to her life.



2. A. Vanitha (Nizamabad Distt.) Trade: Soft Toys

10.19.1 Vanitha completed her schooling (Class X) and wanted to study further. Her parents, however, could not afford to send her for further education because of their poor financial condition. Vanitha decided to take up a course in the District Training Centre and make a living. She joined the Soft Toys making course and acquired necessary skills. She started making toys herself and selling them in the market. She has now a decent income besides teaching others the art of soft toys making. Her initiative has given her the confidence and satisfaction which would help her in future.





STEP

Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)

It aims at making a significant impact on women in traditional sectors by upgrading skills and providing employment on project basis by mobilizing them into viable groups, arranging for marketing linkages, support services and access to credit.



Pisciculture Project in Orissa

10.20.1 The Orissa Pisciculture Development Corporation Ltd. (OPDC) has been sanctioned a STEP project for training to 3000 fisher women on quality and improvisation of dry fish products in the Districts of Ganjam, Puri, Balasore & Bhadrak for a period of three years at a total cost of Rs.220.78 lakhs. So far, they have covered 1559 beneficiaries and the training of these women has been conducted in a phased manner. The experiences of the Ganjam Cooperative Fisher Women Story are lively heartening.

10.20.2 Out of the various cooperatives formed in the first year, "Maa Gangadevi Primary Marine Fisherwomen Fish Marketing

Cooperative Society" having a membership of 165 fisherwomen of Ganjam District has a special story to tell. The members of the Society have been trained in the preparation of hygienic dry fish and also preparation of value added fish products like fish pickle, prawn chutney etc. Their products were sold in the Beach Festival held at Gopalpur on 10.12.2003 and they received an instant revenue of Rs.10,000/- from their sale which they saved in the Society's account. The good quality products of the society and their packaging caught the eye of Fishfed the Apex Fish Cooperative Federation who came forward to open a dry fish sale center at Bhubaneshwar. The sale center sold all the products supplied by the society and paid them Rs.10,300/- which the society has also saved in their account. The society, with its savings, has



constructed a first floor building over the Satellite Storage Godown for taking up their programmes. The members of the society are extremely enthusiastic and are interested in selling their products by packaging them in attractive pouches. Their success in sales has also motivated bankers to give credit to this society. The version of the President of the Society Smt. K. Gouramma, President is given below:



10.21.1 *“I have never imagined that being a woman like me also can make an endeavour in some other activities other than cooking and looking after children. As a downtrodden member in the society, I stepped into the STEP project with the help of Fisheries Department officials. While raising the Steps of the STEP Scheme, I could know that a woman could do every thing, she can compete perfectly with a man in all fields including in earning money. Now I am surprised how we used to accept the old traditional unhygienic methods of drying fish for decades together and sustained poverty and backwardness.*



10.21.2 *Now, I together with other members of our society try to eradicate the old crude methods and adopt new methods for getting better price and improvements in our socio-economic status. I thank Fisheries Department and Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD), Government of India through their STEP Project in making our society members and myself self-confident. I also helped in creating unity in ourselves through leadership management.”*